

Thursday September 26 1996

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46,868

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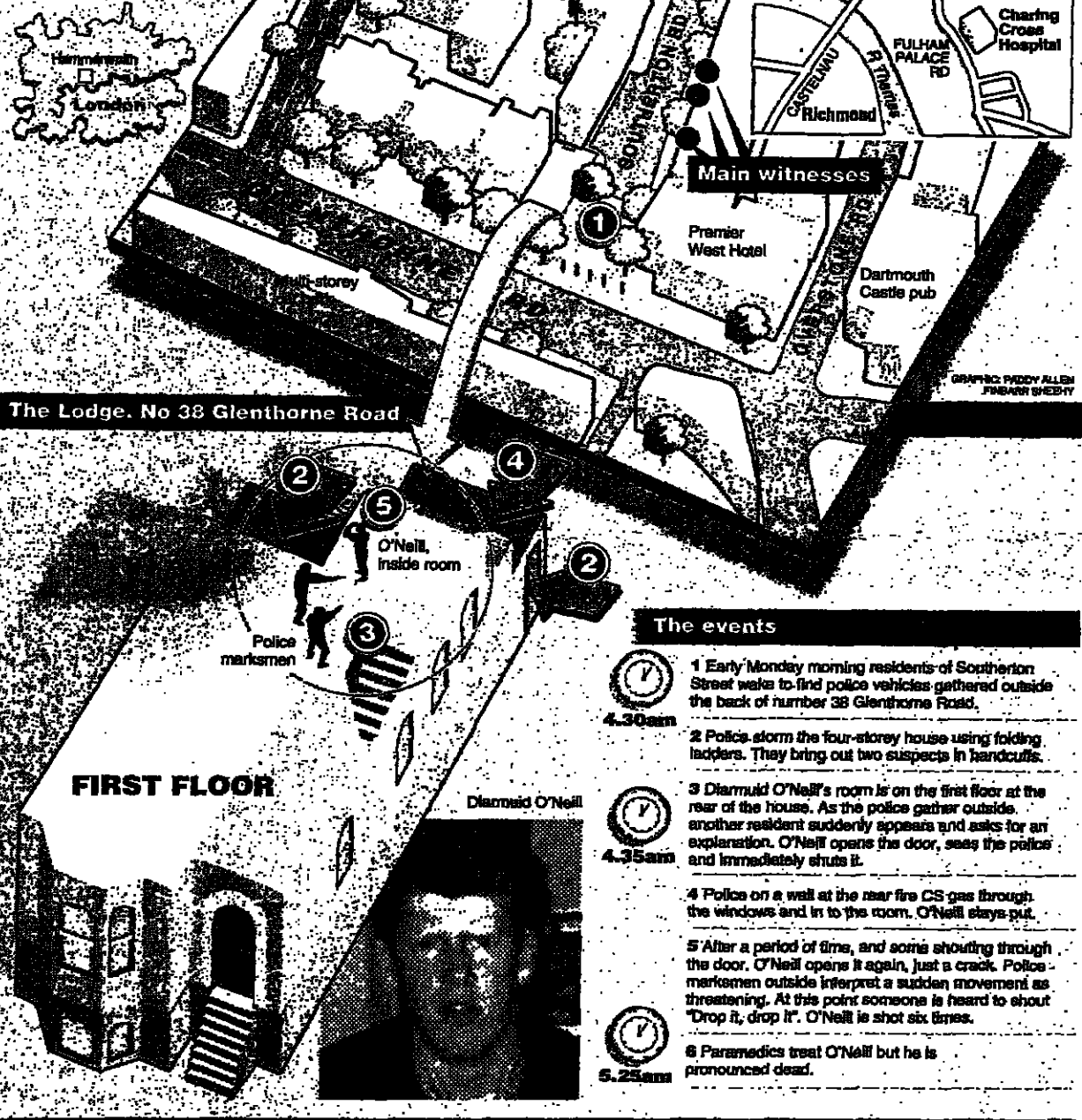
Death at dawn: the fatal gesture of an IRA man

Christopher Elliott, Owen Bowcott and Martin Wainwright unravel details of the police anti-terror operation in west London

DIARMUID O'Neill, the 27-year-old IRA suspect, was shot dead through a gap in the doorway of a first floor flat in west London by police officers who believed he was making a threatening movement.

Police raid

Early on Monday morning Diarmuid O'Neill was shot dead by police in the quiet streets of Hammersmith.



for some minutes before other policemen on a wall behind the end of terrace house and on ladders placed up against the building outside fired CS gas through windows of the room.

"armed police" and "come out with your arms up". "First of all they were kicking a door down at the back, then there was a lot of running and shouting," Ms Dalton said.

ing movement and was shot six times. Paramedics from the London Ambulance Service, on standby at the scene, treated O'Neill, who was pronounced dead at 6.25 am.

house, apparent evidence of the body having been dragged out. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, yesterday alleged there had been an attempt to hide the facts about the shooting.



MP warned to call off Adams meeting

ABOUT leaders threatened last night to withdraw the party whip from left-winger Jeremy Corbyn (above) if he pressed ahead with a House of Commons meeting today with Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, writes Nick Varley.

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAEL came to the brink of open war with the Palestinians yesterday. In scenes reminiscent of the worst of the intifada, Israeli troops shot at stone-throwers in the West Bank town of Ramallah. This time Palestinian police fired back with automatic weapons as the clash degenerated into a new and uglier conflict.

opened fire only when the Israeli troops started to shoot stone-throwers. One witness described how a man in civilian clothes, who described himself as a member of the Palestinian president Yasser Arafat's elite Force 17, pulled out a pistol and fired wildly in the direction of the Israelis.

£500,000 hurdle for duchess in Bryan book fight

We look forward to seeing her in court, says publisher of 'explosive account' stalled by injunction

KARIM AHMED THE Duchess of York, who is reported to have debts totalling more than £1 million, has been ordered to lodge £500,000 with a court as part of her attempt to block the publication of a book detailing her relationship with John Bryan.

that hearing, where she is likely to be questioned closely about her private life. The injunction, granted after a four-day hearing in private, prevents publication of information gained during Dr Starkie's involvement in the duchess's affairs. He was once a business partner of Mr Bryan.

If the duchess failed to find the money, said Mr O'Mara's solicitor, Suzanne Reeve, an immediate application would be made to have the injunction lifted.

about her relationship with various people over the past six years. The case, Mr O'Mara said, would be "extremely amusing for everybody".

keeping the truth from the public," he said. Jonathan Coad, of the duchess's solicitors, Schilling and Lom, said he had "absolutely at this stage no idea" whether the duchess would appear in court.

Britain... The money is security for...

World News... Dr Starkie signed a deal last month with Michael O'Mara Books, which published Diana: Her True Story.

Finance... The Prudential, Britain's biggest life insurer, is spending £70m on a move into retail banking, including personal visits.

Sport... Arsenal were tipped out of the UEFA Cup by Borussia Moenchengladbach. Despite a two-goal comeback, they lost 3-2 in Cologne.

Comment and Letters, 8; Obituaries 10; Crossword 16; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

A TRUE STORY THAT NEVER HAPPENED STEPHEN MAKI



Sketch

Rolling in the aisles with hate



Simon Hoggart

IN THEIR own quiet way, Liberal Democrats are excellent haters. They hate the Tory government, they hate many of their own members, but most of all they hate Jack Straw.

Actually, they hate most people in the Labour Party. I popped along to the conference revue. There were abusive jokes about various Lib Dems ("He fought Kettering at the last election. Kettering won"). But the real venom was for the Labour Party and its members.

There was a song about an apostate ("What a wanker, Roger Liddle") which was part of the witty chorus and lots of rude stuff about Jack Straw. "To get homeless children off the streets, New Labour has made a private partnership with the Brazilian police."

"Jack Straw wants nothing to do with wet, well-meaning do-gooders - like Michael Howard."

Every mention of Mr Straw is forth hissing and boos. It doesn't need a reason. If a speech is going badly, whether on the law of the sea or the cucumber regime, all you need to do is shout out and as for Jack Straw... "o jeers will last for ages. I went along to a fringe meeting called "Why we don't want to get into bed with about."

It was addressed by Tony Greaves, a councillor from Pendle, Lancs, who has been coming to Liberal conferences since around the time of adstone. Mr Greaves is a world-class hater. If there was a transfer market for haters, would be Alan Shearer. He has hated me for at least years, though I can't think of, since it wasn't me who ate that - with his balding and bushy beard - Mr Greaves looks as if his head has been put on upside down. By contrast, I am rather and of him, and thought he made a good speech yesterday.

Mr Cleese was late. The minstrel sang, making Bob Dylan sound like a nightingale: "John Brown's body lies in the grave/And he ain't gonna smoke no more."

Someone said John would be along in a moment. "I want to sing a little song about the treachery of the BBC," said the guitarist. "Now there's Embassy snooker and Rothman's rugby union..."

The guitarist pushed forward. We held our breath. But Cleese was brilliant. He shook him warmly by the hand and he wasn't any bother at all.

Review

Bubbly at the Ritz and all that jazz

Lanie Goodman

Scott Fitzgerald anniversary The Ritz, Paris

FOR the past two days the rich and famous have been sipping champagne cocktails in the salons of Van Cleef and Arpels at the Place Vendôme in Paris, ogling the yellow diamond in the a dazzling 200-carat as, say, a small

vision was to of mar- o fam- r liver-

ss

The legendary Ritz bar, scene of countless outrageous escapades, figures in several of Fitzgerald's semi-autobiographical works of the 30s, but the place has lost its glitter, evoking only nightmarish memories of empty frivolity among those "crazy years".

Paris was where the 30s party was," Gertrude Stein said, but Fitzgerald's ex-wife, France had little to do with the true end of the party. "It would be a cruel irony indeed if at the very time the

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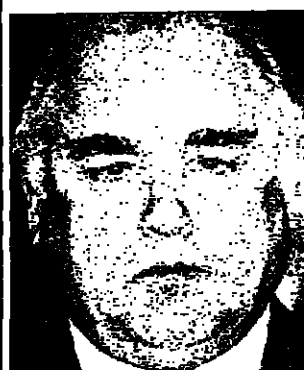
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As doubts persist about Yeltsin's ability to continue as leader, with the news that he will have to spend the next four months in hospital, Russian politicians are lining up to fill the power vacuum. The leading contenders are...



Surgeons Michael DeBakey (left) from the United States and Professor Renat Akchurin offer their assessment



VIKTOR CHERNOMYRDIN, the prime minister, aged 58, is in pole position as he becomes acting head of state when Boris Yeltsin goes under the surgeon's knife. He has pleased the IMF by keeping tight reins on spending. But he is never the master of his government whose key members are chosen by others closer to the president.



ALEXANDER LEBED, secretary of the Security Council, aged 46, is the stormtrooper of Russian politics. In an open electoral contest, he would smash Mr Chernomyrdin with his swashbuckling nationalism. His peace-making in Chechnya has made many enemies in Moscow, but he has a powerful ally in Alexander Kozhakov, the former presidential bodyguard.



GENNADY ZYUGANOV, aged 52, a conservative critic of Mikhail Gorbachev, has rebuilt the Communist Party after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1992 into the largest single force in the Duma (parliament). He personally commands 90 million votes. But the pragmatic Communist leader could only win power as part of an alliance.



ANATOLY CHUBAIS, a free market economist from St Petersburg, aged 42, masterminded the biggest and quickest sell-off of state assets in history. He is an excellent administrator and remains faithful to Mr Yeltsin despite being sacked and insulted by him. He financed Mr Yeltsin's electoral campaign and was rewarded with post of chief of staff.



YURI LUZKHOV, the popular Moscow mayor, aged 60, has been busy building, when everything around him has been collapsing. Keen to redefine the boundaries of his empire, by "sponsoring" his own helicopter carrier in the Black Sea Fleet and claiming Sevastopol in Ukraine as part of Russia. The only game he allows himself to lose is football, and that rarely.



VLADIMIR ZHIRINOVSKIY, aged 50, is the enfant terrible of Russian nationalism whose stunts are beginning to wear thin. The leader of the misnamed Liberal Democrats is being eclipsed by General Alexander Lebed. However, he will go down in history as the man who promised that Russian soldiers would wash their feet in the Indian Ocean.

Medical sting for Yeltsin

Lengthy convalescence casts shadow on upbeat prognosis

David Hearst in Moscow

TOP heart surgeons could operate safely on President Boris Yeltsin and he stood a good chance of making a complete recovery. But the medical team made it clear that Russia would be without the full-time services of its head of state until early next year at least.

The sting in the tail of a generally upbeat medical prognosis by the doctors in Moscow was that Mr Yeltsin would have to spend the next four months in hospital - up

to 10 weeks waiting for a triple or quadruple heart bypass and at least two months' convalescence.

The announcement, after a morning examination by a medical team that included the American cardiologist Michael DeBakey, means Mr Yeltsin can argue that he is not a lame duck president and can and will return to the political stage.

In the interim, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister, will run the country.

After reviewing all the facts I am pleased to say that the operation is needed, that it shall provide excellent results. After the operation,

the president will soon be restored to normal," Mr DeBakey said.

But he described Mr Yeltsin's heart as "damaged", saying the seriousness of the heart attack he suffered in June or early July, during his election campaign, was not yet clear. Mr DeBakey said Mr Yeltsin had recently suffered from internal bleeding and must remain in hospital under close medical supervision until his operation.

Professor Renat Akchurin, the heart surgeon who will carry out the bypass, said he could almost guarantee survival if Mr Yeltsin has his operation in six to 10 weeks.

Five days ago he set off alarm bells by revealing that Mr Yeltsin had had a heart attack in July and suggesting that the operation would have to be postponed or cancelled.

The political crisis over Mr Yeltsin's health has deepened. General Alexander Lebed, the secretary of the Security Council whom Mr Yeltsin named as a future successor in July, attacked Mr Chernomyrdin, saying the Russian army was on the verge of mutiny, likening it to the Tsarist army before the Bolshevik uprising.

He accused the government of "hiding its head in the sand", underestimating tension in the army where the suicide rate of soldiers and officers is rising. He warned that the troops would take their own retribution. "People serving in the army conserved rather high professional skills. Maybe they are not enough to win in world wars, but they are definitely enough to cut the throats of all lambs, no problem."

Blair warned on 'cliques'

Michael White

TWO Labour front-benchers today warn Tony Blair to treat party activists as "mature adults" with a role to play in policy-making in government if they win the general election.

Mischievously invoking the Blairite language of a "stakeholding party", Peter Hain and Derek Fatchett also point out that private sector companies which are always being held up as good examples to Labour have created a more open and participatory management style in recent years.

"It would be a cruel irony indeed if at the very time the

private sector is applying embryonic socialist ideals, the Labour Party becomes more centralised and cliquish," they write with fellow MP Jean Corston in an article for the New Statesman.

Admitting the troubles which bedevilled the last Labour government's relations with its increasingly leftwing party in the 1970s, the three authors say that government often treated party members with contempt while the party saw the government as the enemy across the river.

The call by the MPs for stronger institutional links, including new regional policy forums to exchange ideas

with Labour ministers, regular meetings between those ministers and backbench MPs, are the kind of ideas under study by a review team at Westminster.

But there is no mistaking the waspish impatience with some aspects of the Blairite style. A participatory approach - one of mutual trust - would leave "leaks, bouncing of policy, briefings and counter-briefings between colleagues (as) unnecessary, damaging and part of the old politics, they observe.

Last night, Mr Blair's office described the article as "a welcome contribution to the debate."

Major to give evidence in Guardian court case

Vivek Chaudhary

JOHN Major is set to become the first Prime Minister to give evidence in court after his office said last night it will not challenge a subpoena issued against him by the Guardian.

Mr Major has been asked to appear as a witness in the libel case brought against the Guardian by Neil Hamilton, the former trade and industry minister, and political lobbyist Ian Greer. The case is due to begin next week.

A spokesman for Mr Major's office said: "There's no question of a challenge from the Prime Minister. He has indicated that he's willing to give evidence if necessary. Our solicitors will be presenting documents in court today which are relevant."

"The documents will be presented on behalf of all ministers involved but if the Prime Minister is asked to give evidence then he will do so."

The case stems from reports in the Guardian in October 1994 that Tory MPs Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith received payment in return for asking parliamentary questions. Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer deny the allegations.

Fatal gesture that led to death of IRA man

continued from page 1 dead by the British police and they knew he was unarmed," Mr O'Donoghue said, "then it must be clear that there are very serious questions to be answered by the authorities in Great Britain. No man has the right to act as judge, jury and executioner."

Intelligence sources in London insist that O'Neill's links with the republican movement had been well established over the past five years. They also claim that he was under surveillance for weeks in connection with the Hornsey Vale arms cache before they moved in.

Mike Bennett of the Police Federation countered Mr Adams' remarks last night. "The death is to be totally regretted but officers didn't set out to kill this man," he said. "People should be proud that officers are prepared to undertake this kind of dangerous work."

He said the two officers involved, who have had their firearms authorisation cards suspended as a matter of routine while the investigation is carried out, were yesterday bearing up well. "They were seen by one of our lawyers within half an hour of it happening."

Specialist firearms officers are trained to fire two shots quickly at the main trunk of a suspect if they believe their lives are in danger. They are

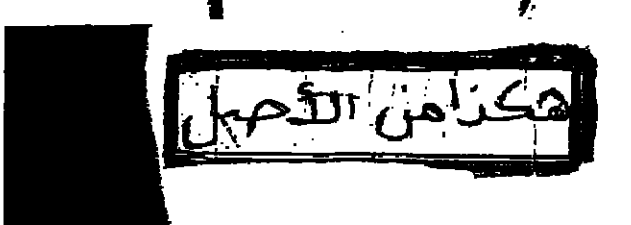
not trained to wound but to kill. The men would have been briefed some hours before on what to expect when they went to arrest the man.

This is the first time an IRA suspect has been shot dead on the mainland. In the past the IRA have opened fire on police when stopped, notably at Stoke Newington when an officer was shot twice when he stopped a van carrying a one ton bomb three years ago and again at Warrington when shots were fired by an IRA gang during an attack on a gasholder.

One senior officer said last night: "We aim to 'house' (contain and arrest them in a house) now, so the damage is either to them or to us."

CINDY MANAGES TO SAY NO TO MORE EASTENDERS. Blair is point w other ha one for

Estate agent, Nation, Travolta, RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.



Estate agents agree tide has turned as capital house prices pass 1980s benchmark



BIRMINGHAM: Trafalgar Road, Moseley. Five-bedroom, traditional-style terraced house, bay windows. Price: £96,500. Accommodation: Vestibule, hall, lounge 16.3 x 14, dining room 16 x 12, cellar, kitchen 12 x 10, bathroom, five bedrooms. Location: Pleasant suburb. Garden: Front and rear.



SCOTLAND: Stratherrick Road, Inverness. Five-bedroom detached house, built in 1966 and enlarged in 1980s. Price: £105,000. Accommodation: Vestibule, hall/dining room 17.2 x 7.5, widening to 14'6. Lounge 19'10 x 11'7, kitchen, five bedrooms, bathroom, garage. Location: Sought-after residential area. Garden: Front and rear.



LONDON: Star Street, W2. Unmodernised two-bedroom maisonette, available for immediate occupancy, above an empty shop. Price: £100,000. Five rooms at the top, cheek by jowl with the A40(M)

Edgware Road close to the Marylebone flyover on the A40(M). Very short stroll to Edgware Road tube station and not much further to Paddington. Garden: none.

Accommodation: Two bedrooms, bathroom, one reception room 15 x 13'5, kitchen/breakfast room 14 x 9'5. Location: In an enclave of terraced properties, adjoining the

Nationwide: What you get for £100,000



DEVON: Miller Way, Exminster. Almost new, detached four-bedroom house. Price: £107,950. Accommodation: Hall, cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, four bedrooms, garage. Location: Housing development convenient for Exeter. Garden: South-facing lawned gardens.

Sarah Boseley ANYWHERE else in the country, a prospective buyer might assume the cost of a desirable London residence included a patio paved with gold. They would, of course, be lucky to get anything better than concrete and a fishpond. The average price of a London pad, which range from garret-like studio flats to mansions, has risen to more than £100,000, the quarterly figures from HM Land Registry revealed yesterday. Only in stockbroker Surrey, where the conservatory and double garage are de rigueur, will bricks and mortar cost you more, at an average £115,290. The figures support the claims of estate agencies and mortgage lenders that house prices are steadily rising. Average prices across England and Wales for all types of property are up over the last quarter - detached houses by 1.77 per cent (and by 3.77 per cent

for new homes), semi-detached by 2.51 per cent, terraced houses by 2.15 per cent, and flats and maisonettes by 6.35 per cent. New flats and maisonettes by 17.7 per cent, reflecting the fact that the market is strongest amongst first-time buyers. The statistics carry authority because they are a breakdown of all house sales from April to June 1996, of which the Registry has by law to be notified. The average house in Greater London now costs £101,916, compared with £96,061 in January to March. For the first time, the prices are broken down by borough, revealing that the biggest recovery was in Lambeth (up 18 per cent). In most other places in the country, buyers get substantially more for their money. The average cost of a house across England and Wales has risen from £67,077 to £69,937. Most of the regions with rising prices were in the South-east. In Gloucestershire prices rose from

£66,372 to £71,528, in Hertfordshire from £67,460 to £82,097, and in Surrey from £111,269 to £115,290. In Cumbria, North Yorkshire, Gwynedd and the Isle of Wight, prices have dropped. Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, chief executive of the National Association of Estate Agents, said the average London house price last

crossed the £100,000 barrier in the late 1990s, when the market peaked. Estate agents say the tide has turned. "We are seeing a quite gradual but sustained recovery in the housing market," said a spokeswoman for Halifax Property Services. "We're not looking at boom time, but things are getting better." It does warn Mr Clarke against introducing "significant tax cuts" before the general election - but the careful wording in the IMF's World Economic Outlook report suggests Mr Clarke could get away with some modest taxation changes without incurring the wrath

Clarke wins IMF vote of confidence

Alex Brummer in Washington

CHANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke's stewardship of the British economy was last night singled out for high praise by no less an authority than the International Monetary Fund.

It said that under Mr Clarke's leadership the United Kingdom achieved "above trend" growth compared to that of its European partners and had made a start in reducing structural unemployment rates - an achievement only shared with the United States among the biggest seven industrial countries.

If Mr Clarke is about to withstand the current political onslaught from the Eurosceptics he will have the opportunity to steer the Tories into the election with the best economic prospect for many years.

The IMF forecasts that the economy will pick-up speed this year and next. Britain's 2.2 per cent expansion this year and 3 per cent in 1997 will mean that the UK economy is the fastest growing among the big European economies with unemployment shrinking to 7.3 per cent next year, making it the lowest among the G7 apart from the United States.

Moreover, the IMF staff believe that this high growth can largely be achieved without breaching the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation ceiling.

In fact, if policy is kept on current course, inflation will fall next year to 2.3 per cent despite higher output growth and lower levels of unemployment. The only problem on the horizon pointed out by the IMF economists is the higher than expected levels of government borrowing largely as a result of revenue shortfalls. The fund recommends that some "corrective measures" on the budget will be needed to put the public finances back into balance over the medium term.

of the international financial community.

In its wide-ranging assessment of the UK economy, the IMF staff asserts that in Britain "the recent economic slowdown has been much less severe than in Germany and France" and although inflation has been running slightly above target "it is expected to drop below the ceiling by early 1997" - just in time for the election.

Looking ahead, the IMF's chief economist, Michael Mussa said in Washington yesterday that a modest interest rate increase might be necessary given the improvement in consumer spending and confidence, although he made it clear there was no urgency.

The IMF seemed more concerned about budgetary policy, which might make the build-up to November's budget that much more difficult for the Chancellor, although it could strengthen Mr Clarke's hand in dealing with wage claims from public sector workers and pre-election cash demands from spending ministries.

The fund warned that "financial market confidence and long-term interest rates" could be adversely affected if attention is not paid to the failure of the public sector borrowing requirement to shrink sufficiently.

Like the Chancellor, the IMF was confident that European monetary union is becoming more achievable and took an important step forward at the Dublin summit last weekend. The IMF forecast that rising growth across the EU - it should expand by 2.5 per cent next year against 1.6 per cent this - will ease the problem of meeting the Maastricht criteria.

It applauded the Dublin decision by finance ministers, including Mr Clarke, to put in place the stability pact which would foster "greater fiscal discipline."

Details, page 12; Leader comment, page 5

CINDY MANAGES TO SAY NO TO MORE ASTENDERS

Travolta lands Primary role

Hanks said no thanks, so the Pulp Fiction star will play Clinton. Martin Walker reports

AS A baby-boomer disco dance star who matured into a movie contract hit-man and southern hoodlum, John Travolta may be inspired casting to play the role of Bill Clinton in the forthcoming film of Primary Colors, the best-selling novel about the 1992 presidential campaign. For a reputed \$15 million (£10 million), the former star of Saturday Night Fever, Pulp Fiction and Get Shorty is being signed to star alongside Emma Thompson, who will play Hillary Clinton in a radical departure from the British actress's latest Oscar-winning venture into Jane Austen. The director, Mike Nichols, bought the film rights to the hit novel when its author was still officially anonymous. And the admission by Joe Klein, the Newsweek magazine columnist, that he was the author of the thinly-veiled account of the Clintons in the



John Travolta... will make £10m as Clinton lookalike



Bill Clinton... upset by image as philanthropist

American primary campaigns in 1992 has not dulled Hollywood's enthusiasm for the project. The publicity keeps on coming, with the original choice for the Clinton role, Oscar-winning Tom Hanks, formally denying yesterday that he turned it down at the friendly request of the White House. "I have met the president and I am voting for him, but that's different from being friends," Mr Hanks said yesterday. "I pulled out because my 1997 filming schedule is full," he added, not because Mr Clinton felt he was wrong for the part.

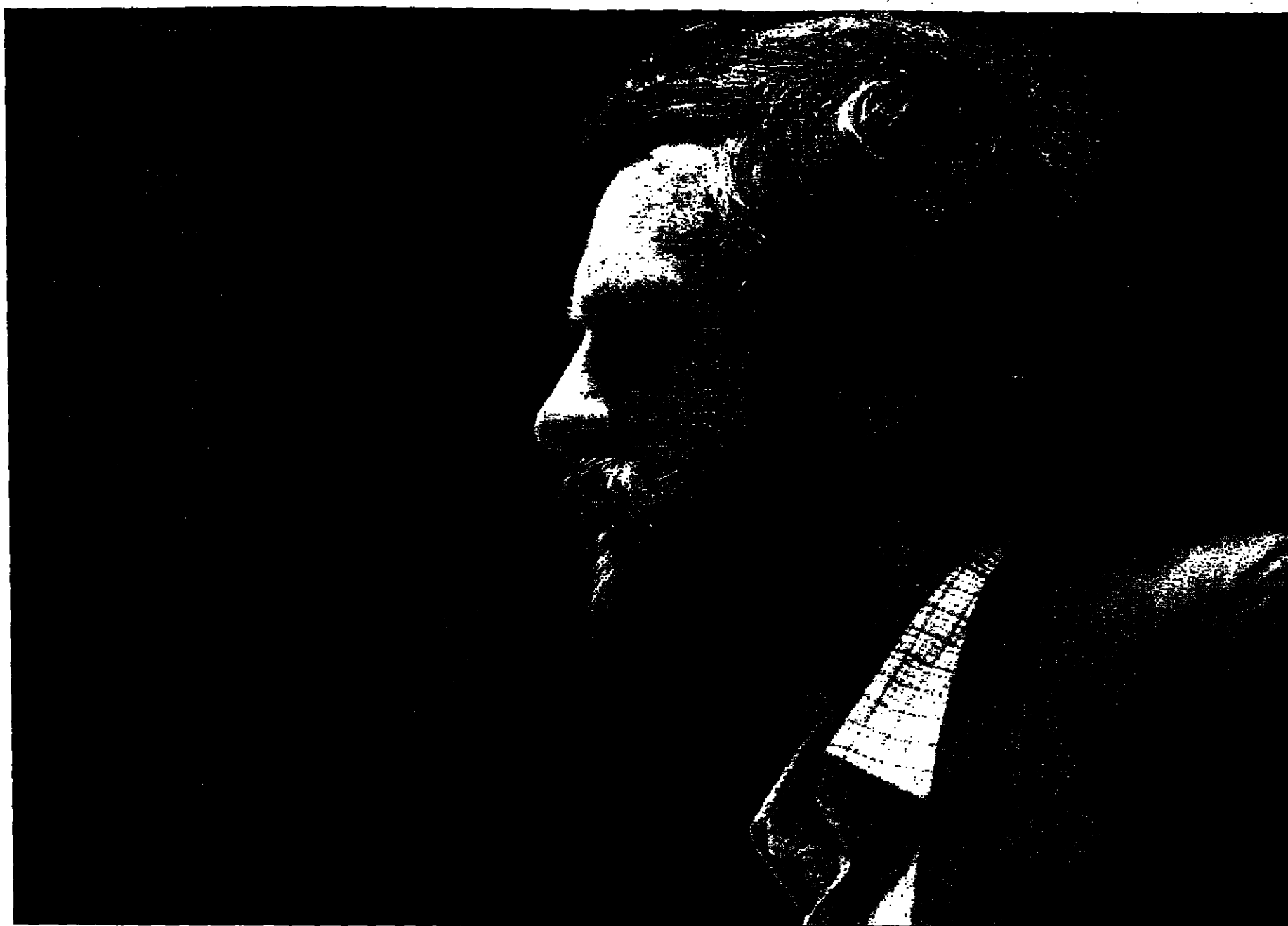
The film of the book of the political campaign is making the white House nervous, because of the shameless pillandering of the southern governor, Jack Stanton, and his foul-mouthed and ruthless wife. This is not the image the Clintons want to present to the millions of American movie-goers, even in the security of a second term. The casting race is still on for the narrator and star of the novel, the young black political strategist who is modelled on George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's political adviser. Having already been portrayed by Michael J. Fox in the film The American President, Mr Stephanopoulos is taking a keen interest in his next incarnation. Hollywood rumour says that Will Smith, star of the television series, The Fresh Prince of Bel Air, and the blockbuster film, Independence Day, is the frontrunner for the part.

Blair is the opposite of Thatcher. Her starting-point was a project for the country. Blair, on the other hand, has a project for the party but not one for the country. Martin Jacques

G2 cover story

Dixons advertisement featuring various electronics deals. Includes sections for HEADPHONES (Sanyo PH40V, PH25), GAMCORDER TAPES (JVC EC45), AUDIO TAPE (BBC CDS90), and BATTERIES (Varta Alkaline AA). A large 'HALF PRICE' banner is prominent. A voucher for Scotch video tapes is also featured, with a price of £6.69. The ad concludes with the Dixons logo and the slogan 'There's a great deal going on'.

London seizure of IRA explosives fails to dent leftwinger's determination to welcome Sinn Fein leader to Commons



Jeremy Corbyn, the leftwing politician who will make Premier Blair's life hard, after earlier signs that he might be coming to terms with New Labour

MP facing discipline over Adams

Michael White Political Editor
GERRY Adams will make his controversial visit to the House of Commons this morning, despite this week's huge seizure of IRA explosives in London and Tony Blair's threat to discipline the leftwing MP who invited him.
The Sinn Fein president will stage a symbolic meeting with Jeremy Corbyn, MP for Islington North, in a Commons committee room before going on to the Camden Irish Centre to launch his book of memoirs which was the centre of controversy even before IRA suspect Diarmuid O'Neill, was shot dead by police on Monday.
After yesterday's shadow cabinet meeting unanimously backed Mr Blair's call for Mr Corbyn to withdraw his invitation, Labour's chief whip, Donald Dewar, issued a sharp statement saying the MP "is acting on his own behalf and must take responsibility for so doing".
The former cabinet minister Tony Benn will also attend the meeting, and Mr Corbyn said Ken Livingstone had signalled support. He said he would not be backing down and that the Sergeant-at-Arms had reluctantly accepted the situation.
"It should not be a dispute within the Labour Party when one MP wants to meet Sinn Fein to press for a ceasefire. I do not want to get into a public brawl," Mr Corbyn said. He plans to urge Mr Adams to press for a renewed ceasefire and peace talks, and fears that rebuff for such talks will strengthen Sinn Fein/IRA hardliners.
Outraged MPs, Labour as well as Tory, thought otherwise about what is widely seen as an ill-judged publicity stunt intended to embarrass the Government until the IRA arms find intruded.
"The Labour Party is not involved or associated in any way. We utterly condemn his proposed action. If he persists it will be a matter for disciplinary action," Mr Dewar said. That was being interpreted as a New Labour return to the 1960s and 1990s, when troublesome MPs lost the party whip.
That would mean an MP could not stand as a Labour candidate, an almost inconceivable move so close to an election.
Mr Corbyn says today's meeting will not include a press conference, though Sinn Fein sources say he will talk to reporters on the pavement outside.
The Labour chairman of the Commons administration committee, Michael Martin, said: "Unfortunately, there is nothing in the rules of the House to prevent my colleague Jeremy Corbyn from having a meeting with this man who is the mouthpiece for the IRA."

Two MPs for price of one in gentle firebrand Corbyn

Michael White
IN JEREMY Corbyn, voters at the unfashionable end of Islington really have two MPs for the price of one. First there is their hard-working, animal-loving, constituency member with his beard and weakness for brightly coloured jackets; a soft-spoken family man.
But there is a second Jeremy Corbyn sitting on a Labour majority of 12,784 in Islington North. Not only is he very left wing by Blairite standards, he is pretty startling by those of the Campaign Group of which he is a luminary.
From American imperialism in Nicaragua and Chile, through the Gulf war, the Maastricht bill, Neil Kinnock's fight against Militant, non-payment of the poll tax and anti-poverty campaigning, the former union researcher has been on the barricades.
As the world was again reminded yesterday when the shadow cabinet voted - angrily and unanimously - to condemn his invitation to Gerry Adams, he is also a big Troops Out man in Northern Ireland.
In 1983 he organised a Com-

mons visit for the Sinn Fein leader, who had recently been elected MP for West Belfast. He could have entered the Palace of Westminster unaided, had he not been committed to Sinn Fein's historic boycott.
Why does Corbyn do it? To shock the respectable middle class from which he springs? To outflank his fellow leftists? To outflank the right? "He can be so nice," one said yesterday, "but when he thinks 'He is an infuriating throwback in an era of professional politicians' he's right about something important he becomes a different person."
One political analyst called him "the most Trotskyite of all the Labour leftwingers". Idealistic or naive, he has backed Militant Tendency and Communist Party campaigns.
He is as much an endangered species as the badgers, deer and other wildlifers he tries so hard to protect from hunters. No sentimental-

townie, Chippenham-born Corbyn, aged 47, grew up in the Wiltshire countryside.
Though he is less effective a campaigner than some awkward squad MPs, Mr Corbyn has had his successes. To the annoyance of his Tory detractors he was, for instance, the first MP to make a fuss about Saddam Hussein's brutal gassing of Kurdish villages in 1988, when the Iraqi leader was still the West's regional ally. Lame excuses to the Scott arms to Iraq inquiry that the nature of the regime was not understood, cut little ice with him.
Some colleagues detected a period when he seemed to be signalling a willingness to come to terms with Blairism. If so, that phase is over. Mr Corbyn will make Premier Blair's life hard.
There may be another possible reason why Mr Corbyn's hard left portfolio includes a brief for a united Ireland, Islington North, where he beat the SDP defector Michael O'Halloran in 1983, is full of Irish immigrants, along with Turks, Cypriots and Blairite modernisers who may one day threaten his power base.
In a pragmatic era of smooth professional politicians he is a colourful but infuriating throwback.

Tory centre-left claims 100 backbenchers

Michael White
CENTRE-LEFT Tories last night claimed the support of 10 cabinet ministers, at least 30 junior ministers and up to 100 backbench MPs in their new campaign to prevent Conservative Eurosceptics from ditching the Cabinet's compromise policy on the single currency.
The claim to far greater strength than their rivals credit them came at the end of a one-day "Conservative mainstream" conference at which the former foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, attacked the right's agenda on Europe and tax cuts.
With the row subsiding over calls for the dismissal of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, four current ministers

attended the Westminster conference, with the ardent pro-European John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, addressing a private session.
Organisers of the conference, an umbrella group for centre-left bodies such as the Tory Reform Group, said that more than 50 MPs had attended and 50 more sent messages of support. That claim will surprise sceptics more than the assertion that 10 cabinet ministers also back their stance.
Taken with 30 junior ministers, that is half the "payroll vote", not counting peers and MEPs. Along with Mr Gummer, Nicholas Soames, Robin Squire and Ian Taylor put their heads above the parapet yesterday - together with a clutch of former ministers including David Hunt.
It was left to Mr Hurd to be

the frontman for what is projected as the centre-left's fightback, intended to help John Major resist Eurosceptic pressure to rule out British membership of a single currency for all time, for the lifetime of the new 1997-2002 parliament or - in the latest version - in the "first wave" after 1999.
Claiming he had never been an advocate of a single currency, Mr Hurd said the complex arguments on both sides had been over-politicised by the "poisoned and prejudiced nature of much of the debate" in the Tory press.
The conspiratorial atmosphere weakened Britain's claims to want to reform European Union institutions rather than destroy them, Mr Hurd warned. "In this context the Cabinet is clearly right in its decision to keep open the option which the Prime Minister negotiated for us on the single currency.
"It would be foolish now to say that we would not join. No one now can tell where the interests of Britain will lie in five or six years' time."
Mr Hurd also attacked rightwing pressure on Mr Clarke to cut spending and income tax ahead of election day. "I do not believe that elections can be won by reducing income tax against a background of sacked teachers or closed hospital wards," he said in an implicit attack on John Redwood's calls for £5 billion of cuts.

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News in brief

Howard 'may outlaw stalking before poll'

MICHAEL Howard, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that legislation to outlaw stalking could be introduced before the next general election...

Doctors call for 50pc pay rise

DOCTORS are calling for a pay rise of more than 50 per cent. The British Medical Association says in evidence to the profession's pay review body that its members need increases 'averaging 53 per cent'...

TV rape scene 'voyeuristic'

CARLTON Television was criticised yesterday by the Broadcasting Standards Council for an 'ill-judged and voyeuristic' rape scene in its regional drama series, London Bridge...

The council upheld a complaint that children had been included in a studio audience debating gay parenting on BBC1's K1090...

Gypsy loses caravan fight

A GYPSY yesterday lost the final stage of an eight-year legal battle to keep her family's three caravans on land she owns, June Buckley...

Sex offender escapes

POLICE were last night searching for a convicted sex offender who escaped during an escorted shopping trip in Liverpool city centre...

Two die in plane crash

TWO people were killed when the light aircraft they were flying crashed a short distance off the north-west coast of England yesterday...



Sir Fitzroy Maclean's widow, Veronica, with Defence Minister Nicholas Soames at yesterday's tribute. PHOTOGRAPH SEAN SMITH

Fitzroy Maclean, soldier, diplomat and adventurer, remembered

SIR Fitzroy Maclean, romantic adventurer, was remembered yesterday as a diplomat, soldier, politician, author, historian and traveller. His many facets were represented in a memorial service at St George's Church in Hanover Square, central London...

was an MP for more than 40 years, he was not really a political animal. He entered the Commons, Lord Soames recalled, as a device to be released from the Foreign Office...

Police face new sex harassment row

23 complaints made by woman inspector over 'taped taunts'

Martin Wainwright FURTHER damaging claims of sexual harassment in the police are to emerge at an industrial tribunal involving the Lincolnshire force...

to submit taped evidence to support her tribunal claims, which are being resisted by Lincolnshire police. The hearing is expected to take place later this autumn...

in the police for 20 years, started making recordings after earlier complaints were ignored by superiors. She was suspended after a tape recorder was discovered in her locker...

Two police inquiries are about to start into the £100,000 payment to former Detective Constable Libby Ashurst, aged 27, and the handling of an internal force probe into 'bizarre initiation rites and punishments' at Harrogate police station...

that one offence did not justify dismissal, but upheld conviction on the other three. The offences are understood to have included sexual harassment, although the force denied that they were related or similar to the earlier case...

part of the Harrogate inquiry. The force's branch of the Police Federation has expressed concern on several recent occasions, including a meeting with Mr Burke last week...

British tourists turn against heartbreak hotels

Vivek Chaudhary FAWLTY Towers-style hotels plague the British tourist industry, but it is service with a smile that attracts customers, warns a guide published yesterday...

Consumers voted cleanliness and attentive staff the most important aspects of a hotel, but they were also the hardest to find. Complaints listed include tornal clippings in the carpet and a pair of underpants under the bed...

get pally, just tell me what you want. Patricia Yates, editor of The Which? Hotel Guide, said: 'All the qualifications in the world won't make a good hotel if the staff don't actually enjoy looking after people...'

codes in many up-market hotels, calling them 'humiliating, unnecessary and anachronistic', adding that many guests are publicly humiliated when wearing the wrong dress...



Establishments of the type immortalised by John Clee survive, but few guests are still prepared to put up with them

Warning for boozy Britons

TOURISTS on all-inclusive holidays to the Caribbean have been warned that their health could be in danger following a survey showing that they are guzzling their way through five pints of beer, three strong cocktails, three shots of spirits and two glasses of wine every day...

provides all-inclusive holidays to the Caribbean. All-inclusive holidays, where tourists pay a lump sum that includes food, drink and accommodation, have become increasingly popular. Martin Plant, director of the alcohol research group at Edinburgh University, said: 'People drinking these amounts are putting themselves and other people at risk...'

Author's African memoir wins prize

Judges acclaim 'powerful' tale of witch doctors and rites of passage

Dan Gleister Arts Correspondent THE literary awards season got under way last night as Peter Godwin won the £10,000 Esquire Apple Waterstone's non-fiction award for his memoir, Mukwa...

The Railway Man. The actress and celebrity Patsy Kensit read an extract from the book at the ceremony. Describing Mukwa as 'a very powerful, moving book', Rosie Boycott, editor of Esquire magazine and chairwoman of the judges, said: 'After an incredibly long, complex deliberation, the judges were unanimous in their decision...'

Healy, Thomas Healy, Joe Kane, Norman Lewis, Tim Lott and Peter Maass. Mukwa is Godwin's story of growing up in Rhodesia in the 1960s and 1970s. Described by Doris Lessing as 'a very good book, the best to come out of the war for independence in Zimbabwe so far', it moves from a childhood of witch doctors and boarding school to being drafted into the Rhodesian police force...

attention as a journalist when he went clandestinely to Matabeland in the south of Zimbabwe in the early 1980s. His revelations of the mistreatment of the minority Matabele tribes by the majority Shonas caused great embarrassment to the government of Robert Mugabe. As a result, Mr Godwin had to flee the country. The other judges were the writers Will Self, Hugo Williams and Andrew O'Hagan, the musician Brian Eno, the television presenter Mariella Frostrup, Martin Lee of Waterson's and Russell Brady of Apple Computers.



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Her mother, who worked in a factory, was not educated, but expected her children to do well. 'She told me point blank: 'You will go to college and you're not going with a baby. You keep your little legs closed and keep your mind on your books.' Terry McMillan, author of Waiting to Exhale

Women, on page 4

Vertical advertisement on the left side of the page. It includes a 'Rain leader to Comm...' at the top, 'MP facing discipline over Adams' below it, and a large '20% OFF' discount sign. At the bottom, it advertises a 'COMPLETE KITCHEN PLUS LARDER FRIDGE & FREEZER' for '\$1099' and 'Home World' branding.

Arab League rallies behind Palestinians

Shyam Bhatia in Cairo reports on how Netanyahu has strained the Middle East peace process

BENYAMIN Netanyahu's victory in last May's general election was seen by most of Israel's Arab neighbours as the start of a countdown for a new Middle East confrontation. Yesterday it appeared the confrontation had begun in earnest.

Egypt, which has been conducting a war of words with the new Likud prime minister, blames the Israeli government for the latest crisis between Jews and Arabs.

When the Arab League meets in emergency session this morning in Cairo, Egypt and Syria will put pressure on other Arab countries to slow down the pace of normalisation with the Jewish state.

Oman, Qatar, Tunisia and Morocco, which have opened low grade diplomatic contacts with Israel, will be urged to reconsider.

The Arab League is expected to issue a strong statement holding Israel responsible for the latest spate of violence in the West Bank and Gaza. It will call on the Israeli government to fulfil its commitments to the peace process and to hold back from provocative measures such as opening the tunnel alongside Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

This is the second time in three months that Arab officials are meeting to express concern over the policies of

the rightwing Netanyahu government. When Arab heads of state met in Cairo in June they warned Mr Netanyahu not to break Israeli commitments to strive for a comprehensive peace settlement.

Arab governments say Mr Netanyahu seems determined to destroy what his Labour government predecessors, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, built.

In recent weeks tension has been building between Jerusalem and Damascus, Beirut, Cairo and Amman. These Arab capitals were more measured in their reactions to Israel's policies under the previous Labour government.

Now the prevailing atmosphere is of suspicion, hostility and accusation. Only two weeks ago Arab military analysts were discussing the prospect of a new war between Israel and Syria, after Syria redeployed troops in Lebanon.

The Syrian move came in the wake of statements by the Likud government that Israel would never withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

Government officials in Damascus have described the Netanyahu government as "fascist" and "racist". But the most scathing attacks are from Cairo where Egypt's government-controlled press has spared no effort to bad-

mouth the Israeli prime minister. One newspaper described him as a Nazi.

Many writers and analysts delight in playing with his name in Arabic. Widespread Netanyahu is broken into three Arabic syllables it can be read as: "He is stinking."

Egyptian officials said that the real reason behind the press campaign was the feeling that Mr Netanyahu duped President Hosni Mubarak at their first meeting. Mr Mubarak expressed satisfaction with Mr Netanyahu's views then, saying he believed the Israeli prime minister was "fully committed" to peace.

"In my opinion the main reason for this crisis is that Benjamin Netanyahu is an Americanised Israeli," said Mr Mubarak's former press secretary, Mohammed Abdel Moneim. "He's Western-minded. He mastered the American slang in the English language and his fatal mistake now is that he is addressing the Arabs in that language, not knowing there is a huge barrier between this culture and that one."

Relations between Cairo and Jerusalem have plunged to such depths that Israel cannot find a replacement for its outgoing ambassador in Cairo, David Sultan.

The irony is that Mr Netanyahu and his advisers seem to be unaware of the renewed tensions between Israel and the Arab world. A week ago Mr Netanyahu's political adviser, Dr Dore Gold, spoke of the many positive elements in relations between the two.



A build-up of tension yesterday following delays over self-rule led to the worst Israeli-Palestinian clashes for two years PHOTOGRAPH: SANAD SAHLEH

Amnesty team in Turkey to highlight latest rights abuses

CHRIE Nuttall in Ankara

AN Amnesty International delegation arrived in Turkey yesterday against a backdrop of more riots over prison conditions.

Amnesty expects to discuss the deteriorating situation with the government. It will also meet Turkish human rights organisations, professional bodies, victims of abuses and their relatives, and is due to announce an international campaign to highlight human rights in Turkey.

A ninth prisoner died yesterday as a result of rioting and a fire on Tuesday at the Diyarbakir prison in south-eastern Turkey. Kadir Demir was one of 14 inmates transferred to Gaziantep jail, 200 miles west of Diyarbakir.

Inmates had protested against the transfer, saying the government was reneging on a promise to end the movement of prisoners to jails far away from their trials and families. The deal had brought to an end a hunger strike in July in which 12 prisoners died.

Anatolia news agency said the prisoner had been wounded in the riots and died in a hospital in Gaziantep. The Turkish Human Rights Association said the nine deaths had resulted from blows by batons or gun butts after the security forces were sent into the prison. It holds around 800 Kurds, jailed for connections with separatist PKK guerrillas.

The Turkish military reported yesterday that 47 militants and six soldiers had been killed in an operation in the south-east against the PKK. Fifteen deaths were reported in Tunceli province where the armed forces said earlier they had encircled 250 guerrillas in a forest.

The trial opened in Ankara yesterday of 23 members of the pro-Kurdish party HADEP. The Turkish flag was torn down by masked men at HADEP's party congress in June and a poster of the PKK's leader, Abdullah Ocalan, was raised in its place.

The charges accused HADEP members, including the leader, Murat Bozalk, of being the political wing of the PKK terrorist organisation. The state prosecutor called for jail sentences of up to 22 years.

Battle for UN crown begins



Boutros-Ghali, above, is bracing himself to fight off the US veto on his second term, Ian Black reports from New York

BOUTROS Boutros-Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, is vowing not to bow out quietly as it dawns on his supporters that the United States is deadly serious about vetoing a second term.

President Bill Clinton pointedly made no reference to the controversial succession question when he addressed the General Assembly on Tuesday, and his brief meeting with the veteran Egyptian diplomat was little more than a contrived photograph opportunity.

But behind the forced smiles both sides are preparing for the final push. The White House has convinced doubters by publicly declaring the veto decision "irrevocable".

UN officials who previously argued that Mr Clinton was playing to a Republican gallery and would back down after the November election admit that Mr Boutros-Ghali's prospects are fading.

Formally he is still backed by France, China and Russia, three of the five permanent members of the Security Council, though Hervé de Charette, the French foreign minister, hinted yesterday that Paris was reluctantly coming to terms with the secretary-general's demise.

Britain, caught hopping by the announcement in May that the US would block a second term, has maintained a public silence but signalled privately that it has abandoned the incumbent.

"I don't think he has a lot of

support from the British," said a senior White House official. A UN insider was blunter: "The Brits have dumped him."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, would only say that a period of "quiet diplomacy" was needed.

As Security Council foreign ministers met yesterday to grasp the nettle, it seemed likely that Mr Boutros-Ghali would be persuaded to step aside "for the good of the organisation".

"We do want candidates to emerge, but not with our backing, because that will just line up others to take their retribution," an American official said.

Senior UN sources insist that Mr Boutros-Ghali will not make it easy for Washington. "The others are so damn mad with the Americans that it would be a blow to them if he caved in now," one said.

"Not caving in now is another way of punishing the Americans. In any case, I don't see him putting out before the election. The game is beginning now and he's playing it. Why should he bow out? He's a very feisty guy."

Diplomats predict that the real action will begin in December, the final month of Mr Boutros-Ghali's five-year tenure. The odds in Washington would like to use the Italian presidency of the Security Council to finalise a choice.

Who that choice may be remains a tantalising mystery, fraught with regional, international and even racial complications which promise a photo-finish to a race which will be run mostly out of the public eye.

The Irish president, Mary Robinson, and Gro Harlem Brundtland, prime minister of Norway, have been suggested, but both are seen by rightwing US Republicans as soft on abortion.

Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian UN undersecretary-general, is favoured as the African who should succeed under the "biggins turn" system of regional rotation which China and France insist should be maintained. An intriguing African possibility is Judge Richard Goldstone, the white South African who heads the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Many favour Sedako Ogata, the formidable UN High Commissioner for Refugees, but Tokyo is reluctant to back her for fear of alienating Japan's chance of securing a Security Council seat — the secretary-general cannot come from a permanent member.

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Part of New Labour's problem is the fear that equality is not a marketable commodity.
Roy Hattersley

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Diary
Matthew Norman

TODAY'S extract from Faces Of Labour, The Inside Story, by Andy McSmith, is postponed due to sensational late news: Mandy Mandelson, the MP for Hartlepool, has been spotted in a gym. He was seen yesterday, shortly after 5pm, working out in the YMCA in Tottenham Court Road. "He had shorts on and a sort of boxer's vest," says my source, "and he was doing a kind of semi-stationary hop that looked like a posture exercise. Actually, he was doing more preening than working out, although he's in pretty good shape for a man of his age."

Invited to rebut this allegation, rapidly or otherwise, world-record-holder Oofy Wegg-Frosser was strangely silent. Further research reveals that Mandy joined the YMCA in 1988, four years after the Village People's hit record, and tends to visit early in the morning. Those who use the state-of-the-art gym in Millbank frequented by New Labour, and the one at Westminster available to MPs, will be intrigued that Mandy shares their hobby, albeit not in their company. As for Nicky in the press office at GMTV, she denies any plans to hire him as cover for Mr Motivator "at the moment".

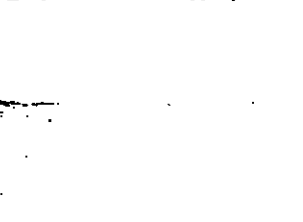
MEANWHILE, in the day's second shock sighting, Mandy's friend Dolly Draper was spotted at the Lib Dem Conference in Brighton. At one point, a question was asked, "Dolly was to Lib Dem director of strategy Alan Leaman, but my agent was unable to overhear any detail. The visit couldn't, surely, be a sign that Mandy's well-known affection for merger (of which, more tomorrow) is getting stronger? Or even, God forbid, a defection?"

THANKS to all who have contributed to the appeal for Christopher Eccleston, a man so phobic about personal publicity that he became a TV actor. You will recall that divulging any biographical detail, however impersonal, is excruciating to him, and so the aim is to collate enough information to negate the need for future proflers ever to torment him again. Today's fact: Mandy was seen in Little Hulton, a suburb of Salford. Today's other fact: when he was introduced to a Manchester journalist who had compared him to Robert de Niro, he said: "You write any more of that patronising shite about me, and I'll have you."

HURRIED retake has interrupted an otherwise smooth recording of tonight's edition of ironical sports quiz 'They Think It's All Over'. It came during the "feel the sportsman" round, in which contestants have to identify an athlete by touch alone. When team captain Gary Lineker had begun feeling his mystery body, presenter Nick Hancock whispered "All right, Vinnie?". When Mr Lineker leapt away from the body and whipped off his blindfold, he was greeted by the sight not of Vinnie Jones — who wants a word with him at the moment — but rugby international Victor Obogu. What viewers will see tonight is the retake, in which Mr Lineker identifies Mr Obogu without the aid of his eyes.

IN the Argentine seaside town of Mar del Plata, delegates are gathering for the inaugural World Conference of Tramps. "The tramp shows total solidarity, shares his food, his knowledge, education and goods and donates his blood and organs selflessly," says organiser Pedro Rivas of the Free Tramps Movement, bafflingly. Mr Rivas tells Reuters that he expects 300 delegates from all over the world, but fails to explain where inter-continental air travel fits in with life on the open road.

PETER Burke writes from Nottingham, noting an advert in the Financial Times, announcing the sale of assets belonging to a Midlands business. He wonders rhetorically why it should have gone into receivership now after trading for more than 150 years, and points out that what the firm manufactures was hospital beds.



Grandeess waving and drowning

Commentary Hugo Young

THE grandeess wing of the Tory Party met yesterday in semi-secret session. Some of what was said was open, some was closed. Along with other journalists, I was kindly invited, but only under what they call Chatham House rules, which means that, with the exception of Douglas Hurd and David Hunt, nothing that was said could be attributed. The whole panoply of what might be in the Conservative election manifesto was debated, but anonymously. This arrangement was eloquent. As the great fight-back against the gargantuan tendency, it graphically expressed the strutting uncertainty, the terror of clarity, the almost paralysed defensiveness, by which the Conservative Mainstream is now all but engulfed.

That is the name of the new federation of the Tory left. The Mainstream launch wasn't helped by the intervention, the day before, of a real grandeess, Nicholas Bonsor, fourth baronet of the line; and still

less by the inability of the Prime Minister, the patron saint to whose service Mainstream proclaims it is devoted, to terminate with extreme and instant prejudice the career of the first junior minister in history to take to the air for the insolent purpose of denouncing the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Such are the depths to which the Mainstream has been driven. They may be waving, but they're also drowning.

Douglas Hurd, supplying the keynote image en clair before the meeting went private, described where Mainstream thinking came from. It "usually flows through peaceful meadows", he noted with puzzlement. Verdant tranquillity is what Mr Hurd is used to. Seventeen years of the Thatcher rage don't seem to have discouraged him from talking as if slow-moving cataracts were the sharks waiting to devour the bones of Tory history. Some kind of middle way is what most Conservative voters want to believe in, and what every non-Tory with an open mind would prefer to support. It is, actually, the ground the manifesto will at least be pretending to occupy.

There are few Cabinet voices speaking for a minimal-state commitment just yet. The document is more likely to be pallid Mainstream than roaring cataract. Its authors would also like, as Mainstream people were saying yesterday,

to put Europe in its proper place: about ninth in the list of voter concerns. This, however, is where the vision becomes unreal. Europe may be ninth with the people, but it's first with the politicians, and has taken on a political life extending far beyond itself. Europe is metaphor and symbol. It can't be docked, high and dry, away from the turbulence of twenty years ago. Lord Dunning memorably described the Treaty of Rome's effect on English law. "The treaty is like an incoming tide," he said. "It flows into the estuaries and up the rivers. It cannot be held back." The Europe trace-line now pollutes every waterway of Conservatism from the west coast to the driest.

Pollution is the word. No argument, however limp, survives unstained by it. Here, too, Conservative Mainstream has something serious to say. It's trying to muddy the arrogant certainties of the other side, support the tacking and wheeling that has become the way Mr Major tries to keep on course. The Mainstream attitude to Europe has remained a well-known secret for too long. The pirates have been running away with the party, and the original owners owe it to the country to make an effort to get it back.

The retention of Bonsor the dim grandeess is the final disabusing

The retention of Bonsor the dim grandeess is the final disabusing

The first is that Mainstream

operators, the Tories of the meadows, are no match for the masters of the gorge. What Mainstreamers have to say is usually subtle and compromising. It engages with the awkwardness of reality. It has few simple solutions, makes little music written for the trumpet-blast. The reason why extreme Euro-phobia has gripped the Conservative political machine, if not the Conservative vote, is that it appeals to simple atavistic prejudices that are especially ripe for exciting when the party is otherwise at electoral death's door. Even in the hands of confident politicians, the message from the Mainstream, weighed down by the ballast of 17 years, is hard to make float, let alone fly.

Second, though, these Mainstreamers seem invincibly to belong to the past. Passé is what they looked like yesterday, and not just because of the threadbare circumstances in which they half-secretly met. They have no chutzpah and no élan. They mostly tell the truth, but have no idea how to penetrate the media that have played the major part in removing them from Conservatism from the central channel to the eddies swirling viciously on the edge. They look tired and bewildered, as if they know, which they surely do, that they're no longer where it's at. If they did this moderate Conservatism bestrode the present, the retention in the Foreign Office of Bonsor the dim grandeess, his friends convulsed in merry mirth, is the final disabusing. Mainstream, alas, can no longer describe the Tory Party. Mainstream is steady, straight, predictable. But the captain, now, is not in command of his ship. I can call spirits from the vasty deep, Hurd seemed to be saying yesterday. If words signify reality, perhaps he could. So could Mr Major. But when he calls for them, they won't come.

Heard the one about New Labour?



Mark Steel

TONY BLAIR has a difference he has to prepare an hour-long speech; but if he sticks to the changes he intends to make from Conservative rule, all that will be left to say will be: "Brothers, sisters. Well, nothing really. Now for Auld Lang Syne."

who believe that closing hospitals is safe, selling arms to Saddam is safe, and dangling from a piece of flex with an orange in your mouth is safe. "None of this can be rectified unless we are willing to reform our institutions. The practice of one or two barons wielding block votes that count for a million times more than the average member can no longer be tolerated. That is why we are proposing that company directors can only award themselves pay increases if voted on by everyone who uses gas, water or whatever the company makes. In a secret ballot after 90 days' notice, and if it goes the wrong way someone takes out an injunction and stops it anyway. Boom, boom.

"We must be willing to reform outdated institutions suited to the previous generation. So the royal family and the House of Lords will be elected by one man, one vote. Only public schools will be kept as they are, as there is something to be said for an institution that takes the sons of judges and wallops them with a stick. "Even our own Bible must be modernised. Indeed, Peter Mandelson has already completed a first draft which reads, 'And Jesus stormed into the Temple whereupon the moneylenders were going themselves. Jesus looketh upon them, turned unto a nearby widow bearing only mite and said: Euraxce competition. For if the moneylenders gorge themselves, their gold will trickle down.'"

'Ladies and gentlemen, Blair's the name, there'll never be another'

Sadly, the real speech is more likely to be: "Ladies, gentlemen, customers. We live in a Britain that is crumbling. And I promise that a Labour government will change absolutely nothing. "Now I know that there are some in the party who cling to the old-fashioned idea that we should still promise to do a little bit about something. But unless we abandon this outdated rhetoric we shall lose the election, and never be given the chance to do nothing. "We will do nothing about poverty, nothing about education [rising in crescendo], we will work night and day and shall not rest until we have achieved nothing. "That is the exciting message I want you to take from this conference to inspire the British people."

Mark Steel, when not writing speeches for political leaders, presents the Mark Steel Solution on Radio 4 and is author of It's Not A Runner Bean (The Do Not Press)



How to stop stalkers

Michael Howard promises an urgent Bill to outlaw stalkers. But haste can result in bad law, warns Clare Dyer — much better to reach for one the Law Commission made earlier

WOMEN are stalked, harassed and pestered to the point of severe depression and anxiety, yet cannot rely on the criminal law to come to their rescue. The Home Secretary's promise to plug the loopholes, possibly by next spring, is welcome. The Government plans specific anti-stalking laws making it possible to convict stalkers without proving they intended to harm their victims. But is a hastily-drawn bill rushed through Parliament the right way to do it? A bill produced four years ago by the Government's own law-reform body would not only provide a remedy against stalkers but completely overhaul one of the most outdated areas of English law — the law on assaults. Prosecutors at present are forced to fall back on a 135-year-old law in a largely ineffective attempt to plug a yawning gap in the law which leaves thousands of women unprotected. To the Victorian drafters of the 1861 Offences Against The Person Act, the

peace. In Scotland, new laws are not needed because this charge works well against stalkers; Scottish case law has defined breach of the peace so widely it can include any conduct likely to cause alarm, whether intended or not. In England the charge was used this year against Bernard Quinn, who shadowed Princess Anne for years and showered her with letters, and Klaus Wagner, Princess Diana's stalker. But both prosecutions failed because there was no cause for anyone to fear a violent incident. In more serious cases, prosecutors are arguing that the psychological stress, anxiety and depression caused by the stalker's relentless pursuit amounts to actual or grievous bodily harm. The problem is proving that the stalker intended his victim harm, a key ingredient in the offence. Typically he has no laid a finger on her. Often, far from wanting to hurt her, he claims to be in love with her and sometimes even to believe that she loves him. The results in these cases have been patchy. Anthony Burslow, the first stalker found guilty of GBH, pleaded guilty to the charge, so his case was no precedent. Unusually, his was a hate rather than a love campaign, and a menacing note, concluding "nothing will change how much I hate you" eased the prosecution's task of proving intent. He appealed, arguing that "inflicting" grievous bodily harm — the words used

in the act — meant physical damage. His appeal was rejected by the Appeal Court, but may go to the House of Lords, prolonging uncertainties over the law. Last week, the case against Dennis Chambers, who allegedly pestered 30-year-old restaurant manager Margaret Bent for four years, collapsed because the hurdle of proving intent was too high. He had told police in his interview that his Bent had "no need to panic". On Tuesday a jury convicted Clarence Morris, with a long history of sex attacks and assaults, of the lesser offence of causing actual bodily harm to dental nurse Perry Southall, a Pamela Anderson look-alike. The judge, Gerald Butler, called for urgent action by Parliament to make stalking a criminal offence. Last July the Government first proposed new anti-stalking laws, apparently galvanised by an attempt by the Shadow Minister for Women to plug the gap with a private member's bill. The Government rejected Janet Anderson's bill, claiming it was too wide and would also have caught investigative journalists and Jehovah's witnesses. The Home Office proposals would remove the need to prove the stalker intended harm. Two new criminal offences would be created — behaving in a way which causes people to fear for their safety, punishable by an unlimited fine or up to five years in prison; and causing harass-

ment, alarm and distress, punishable by a fine of up to £5,000 or up to six months in prison. A new civil measure would allow victims of stalkers to seek a court injunction against further molestation. Breach of this would be a criminal offence, punishable by up to five years in prison. But is this the right way to do it? A bill still has to be drafted, and previous examples of rushed Home Office drafting are not reassuring. After 135 years, the Offences Against The Person Act is long overdue for repeal. Still used to prosecute most non-fatal violent offences, its complexities and archaisms give rise to over-long trials and frequent appeals, at huge cost to the taxpayer. A Law Commission bill drafted in 1992 would replace the act with a comprehensive modern law, making it an offence to cause psychological harm "intentionally or recklessly". "Recklessly" is widely defined and would cover cases where a defendant is aware of the risk that his behaviour could impair his victim's mental health. The Law Commission believes — backed up by academic experts — that the bill would plug the loophole which now allows stalkers to escape. The bill is impeccably drafted, ready to go, and backed up by lengthy consultation. What is the Home Secretary waiting for?

Clare Dyer is the Guardian's legal correspondent

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Paul Weston

Serenades in swingtime

Paul Weston, who has died aged 84, was one of those journeyman orchestrators whose work for three decades plastered all over record catalogues and the airwaves. He specialised in accompaniments for prominent singers ranging from Dinah Shore and Donny Kaye to Johnny Mercer and Ella Fitzgerald and also Mrs Weston, known professionally as Jo Stafford.

He also had some success with "mood" albums whose titles were sufficiently nebulous to forestall serious criticism. *Music for the President*, *Music for a Rainy Night* and so on. Although not quite in the top flight as an arranger and musical director, Weston could always be relied on for something accurate and stylish.

He was born Paul Weinstein in Springfield, Massachusetts, and by the time he reached his teens was a professional musician, playing piano and occasionally leading his own band at college dances. By the early 1930s the better-known singers were beginning to use his orchestrations. Today, when some obscure mid-1930s recording is dug up, the chances are that the accompaniment is Weston's.

In 1955 a gift for being in the right place at the right time led him to the pug-nacious figure of Tommy Dorsey at the very moment when Dorsey was launching himself as a bandleader. Weston

stayed with Dorsey for five years before becoming a freelance writer and conductor and general jack-of-all-musical-trades.

In 1943 he was appointed staff arranger at Capitol Records. He also began working regularly on radio, producing the music for series by Johnny Mercer, Bob Newhart and Jo Stafford.

It was in the 1950s that he founded the National Academy of Recorded Arts and Sciences and became its inaugural president. He was also an occasional songwriter.

Weston said he was never happy scoring Berlin's music because it was too simple

scoring big commercial successes with *Shrimp Boats*, *Day by Day*, and *I Should Care*.

But the two incidents which define Weston once and for all as a musician concern Jonathon Edwards and Irving Berlin. In the 1960s, Weston and his wife created the mythical recording artists Jonathon and Darlene Edwards. The albums consisted in their entirety of well-known tunes sung and played blatantly out of tune and out of time. Listeners tended to be much comforted by these per-

formances because they were flattered to feel that they were musical enough to laugh at the joke, although the performances were so violently wrong that it would have taken a horse not to know the difference between what the Westons were doing and proper music. One wonders if Weston was altogether comfortable to know that his most famous recordings consisted of calculated musical butchery.

The incident involving Irving Berlin is a more serious affair. In the late 1950s the impresario Norman Granz invited Weston to orchestrate and conduct for Ella Fitzgerald in her *Irving Berlin Song Book*. The Cole Porter and Rodgers-and-Hart song books had already been issued, with spectacular results, and by the time Weston was invited to participate it was already clear that the series was making history. What is remarkable is that Weston should have said in public that he was never happy scoring Berlin's music because it was "too simple". It does not say much for Weston's sensibilities that he should have found the likes of *Let's Face the Music and Dance*, *You're Laughing at Me*, *Lazy* and many others "simple". Weston took no further part in the song book series.



Perfect harmony... Paul Weston and Jo Stafford studying an arrangement in the studio

Benny Green
Paul Weston, bandleader, born March 1912; died September 20, 1996

Sidney Gray

Sorting out the psychiatrists

DURING the second world war, army service took Sidney Gray, who has died aged 82, into the War Office's selection boards, whose job was to screen potential officer material. The work brought him in touch with psychiatrists and psychologists from the Tavistock Clinic and elsewhere who were determined to set up a research institute that would use the social sciences to tackle practical social issues.

Initially, the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations was part of the Tavistock Clinic, but the clinic was about to enter the Health Service and accordingly the ITHR was separately incorporated in 1947. Sidney Gray helped to set it up and became company secretary, a post he held until he retired in 1979.

The ITHR's council wanted

an organisation which would give scientists the maximum participation consistent with council's legal responsibility, and this devolution has continued ever since. From the beginning, Sidney Gray was a member of the elected management committee.

His responsibility for finance and administration made him accountable to his staff colleagues and to the council and the balance of power between them was always sensitive. He retained the trust of both sides.

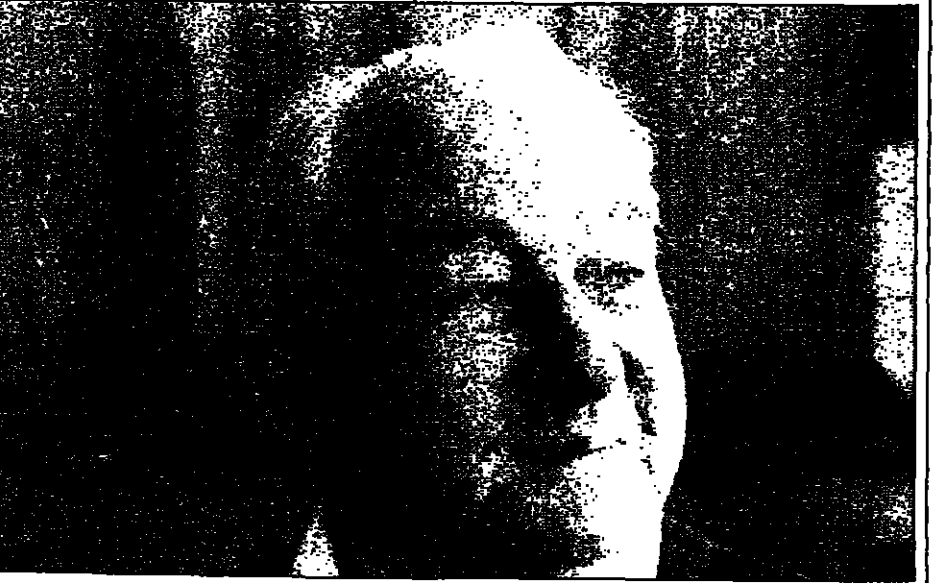
In 1950, Gray became secretary of the Tavistock Institute of Medical Psychology the parent body of the pre-NHS clinic, which was retained to receive donations and bequests. He held this role until 1985. ITHR also set up a publishing arm, which was transferred to a commercial pub-

lisher in 1989. Clinic and institute staff helped set up the Family Discussion Bureau in 1948 and Gray was central to the transfer of what became the Tavistock Marital Studies Institute to the ITHR in 1956. The ITHR's structure promoted entrepreneurial development and by 1965, ITHR had been restructured as five units, while staff numbers rose from 12 to around 70.

As secretary, Gray supported the diversification while holding on to the ITHR's integrity.

From 1963 to 1975, Gray was the part-time secretary of the Institute of Psycho-Analysis, and he served as secretary, treasurer or consultant to such bodies as the Association of Social Research Associations, the International Foundation for the Quality of Working Life and the Ecole des Affaires de Paris.

Sidney Gray is survived by his first wife, Queenie, and their sons Alan and Roger, and by his daughters of his second marriage, Joanna and Karin. He had eight grandchildren.



Gray... helped set up the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations

Eric Miller
Sidney George Gray, company secretary, born July 14, 1914; died August 21, 1996

Letter

Margaret Stanton writes: As Andrew Roth remarked, Julius Silverman (obituary, September 23) was a quiet man who never sought publicity. Yet his work contributed both to the good of individuals and of whole communities.

He was mentioned at this month's Trade Union Congress as the Member of Parliament who, on behalf of trade unions, presented the Redundancy Payments Bill to Parliament in 1965. It was rejected by the Conservative Government, but in 1964 it was adopted by the Labour government under Harold Wilson.

That legislation laid down rights which have benefited thousands of workers during the last 30 years. It was a piece of history showing the benefits to a Labour government of guidance from trade unions on the needs of employees.

Julius Silverman had a lifelong commitment to anti-colonialism and anti-racism. Although India was his special concern for most of his political life, he always supported solidarity with people in struggle against oppressive regimes, for example in Vietnam, Chile and South Africa. To the end of his life he affirmed his socialist beliefs, which had first taken him into the Labour Party at the age of 19.

My husband and I first worked closely with him when he gave great help to our small Birmingham-based group trying to get the release of political prisoners in British Guiana before its independence from Britain, which was being prepared by the Labour government in 1966.

He always insisted, with his lawyer's precision, that he was given a complete and accurate brief by those he was helping, and was largely responsible for two long debates in the House of Commons, during the passage of the Independence Bill.

The political prisoners were guaranteed release, and Guyana was established that year.

Ahmed Bahauddin

Doyen of the Arab press

AHMED Bahauddin, who has died aged 69 after spending the last six years of his life in a coma following a stroke, was the doyen of Egyptian, and indeed Arab, journalists.

In 1962, he gave up a lucrative career at the bar to become a journalist — not then an esteemed profession with Rose El-Youssef magazine. This was after Bahauddin as a member of a devout Muslim family, challenged convention even more strongly by marrying a Coptic Christian, Daisy Rafael Armanous.

By 1956, at the age of 29, he had become editor-in-chief of Sabah al-Khair magazine and held the same office at the prestigious semi-official Al-Ahram daily (1974-1976) and the pan-Arab Kuwaiti magazine Al-Arabi (1976-1980). He was elected chairman of the Egyptian Journalists' Association and chairman of the Arab Journalists' Union.

As a writer, he helped establish the "short" daily column commenting on current affairs. This meant simple standard Arabic, avoiding arcane references and flowery language and relying on short, rapier-sharp sentences instead of the long-winded style.

An ardent supporter of the 1952 "revolution", he soon found himself in a dilemma after Nasser's nationalisation of the media. The draconian measures used against both the Muslim brothers and the communists (among whom he had many colleagues if not friends) disheartened him. When Nasser tightened censorship after the six-day war in 1967 Bahauddin did not conceal his opposition.

After Nasser's death, the dilemma continued with Sadat. In 1971, Sadat moved him from Dar-El-Hilal to become



Bahauddin... sharp prose

editor-in-chief of Rose El-Youssef but Bahauddin refused to go. Such a stand was unheard of. It added a great deal to his prestige among fellow journalists.

He also disagreed with Sadat's policy of economic liberalisation and called for strict checks to restrain "fat cats" and weed out corruption. For this, he was seen nationally as a champion of the vulnerable and voiceless. He was also critical of the Camp David accord and Sadat's peace strategy. He was not an advocate of short-term solutions based on the two planks favoured by Sadat: war and political agreement. As a dreamer, he wanted the Arabs to bridge the gap in science, technology and culture and found it difficult to concede that those in power had to make policy decisions for the here and now, and were unlikely to satisfy dreamers.

Ahmed Bahauddin is survived by his wife, a daughter, Laila, who is a diplomat, and a son Ziad, who took up the legal profession which his father deserted.

Khalid Al-Mubarak
Ahmed Bahauddin, journalist, born 1927; died August 24, 1996

Jackdaw



RHO ALPHA It has: Mari-sotter, Goldings SGU 1010 EB 96 and takes in total 8/9 days. It took Gales 2 years research and experiment to perfect. Roger and Sue Datchler on 01420 598387. A particularly enigmatic advert printed in the Hampshire Chronicle last Friday. Thanks to Andrew Duckworth.

Door desire

DOORMOLESTER ARRESTED! A man has been helping police with their enquiries after he was spotted trying to damage a shop's front door in a Forest town over the weekend.

From foot fetishists to door fetishists. This was the front page headline for *The Forester*, the No 1 Property Paper for the Forest of Dean. Thanks to Laura Phipps.

Sexual healing

THIS journey begins from where we are. In this ten-part course you are entering a new world. It is a world where the obvious has remained secret, where the mundane becomes sacred, a world where poison becomes nectar and sex becomes a spiritual experience.

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developed simple methods of meditation, both for individuals and for love partners, which can help in transforming love relationships from the hell of misunderstanding to the heaven of conscious love. We will move step by step on this journey, removing the layers of inhibitions and conditioning which prevents us from experiencing a life of celebration.

When there is a division inside with ideas of good and bad, holy and unholy it becomes impossible for us to find wholeness, we are at war with ourselves. Perhaps that is why there is so much war among people and nations, because people are at war within themselves. The Tantric way helps us to discover the harmony of opposites, and ecstasy.

This journey begins where we are, in this body, in this home, on this earth.

A great Zen Master Hakuin is reported to have said: "This very body the Buddha, this very earth the lotus paradise." Tantra is perhaps the most ancient science known to man; it is the science of

using the human body and human sexuality as a path to self-realization or enlightenment. The Tantric way is the experience of self-realization or enlightenment is "The Ultimate Orgasm" or "Orgasm with the Universe". For those wondering if Tantric sex was more than just a good way to learn a few new positions, their web site at <http://members.aol.com/ppdnet/tantra/index.htm> Thanks to Gordon Joly.

Not net

1. Thou shalt not use a computer to harm other people.
2. Thou shalt not interfere with other people's computer work.
3. Thou shalt not snoop around in other people's files.
4. Thou shalt not use a computer to steal.
5. Thou shalt not use a computer to bear false witness.
6. Thou shalt not use or copy software for which you have not paid.
7. Thou shalt not use other people's computer resources without authorization.
8. Thou shalt not appropriate

other people's intellectual output.

9. Thou shalt think about the social consequences of the program you write.

10. Thou shalt use a computer in ways that show consideration and respect.

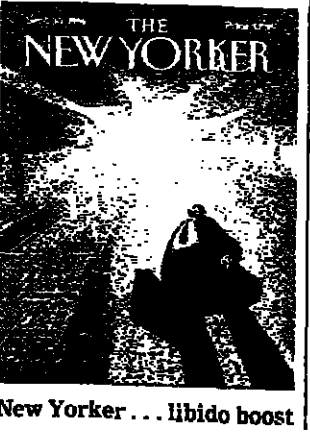
The ten supposed commandments for computer ethics. If these were all applied, the net would be too boring to bother about. Taken from *The Net: User Guidelines and Netiquette from the Computer Ethics Institute* www.fsu.edu/rinaldi/netiquette.html

Old age arc

DAY ONE: I was greeted in the lobby by Dr Franck's cheerful Germanic assistant, Igor, who had me in an ozone-smelling cubicle, where he injected me with a liquid extract of fresh guinea pig and dog testicles. I felt nothing, except a vague sense of well-being and a slight but immediate thickening of my beard. Then Igor showed me around, pointing out the Surveyor's room, where patients go to have their angle of erection checked, and the Rainbow

Chamber, where what Newsweek calls their urinary arcs are measured. On the way home, I didn't like the look of the guy sitting next to me on the subway. So I coldcocked him.

DAY TWO: As instructed, I gave myself a Rogaine massage, but must have done something wrong. I have hair on my palms but not on my head. I was pleased to see, however, that overnight my



New Yorker... libido boost

Guido Aristarco

Marxist guru of Italian film

PROFESSOR Guido Aristarco, who has died aged 77, was a controversial but influential cultural guru for succeeding generations of Italian intellectuals. He believed that cinema should be treated as seriously as any other art form and was the first film historian invited to hold a chair in film studies at an Italian university, Turin in 1969.

Aristarco's interest in cinema stemmed from his politics and his reading of the Marxist Antonio Gramsci, the first philosopher in Italy to give cinema serious attention. As an anti-fascist in his native Mantua and then as a student in Milan, Aristarco came into contact with the resistance and after the war had practical experience of film-making collaborating with Giuseppe De Santis and Carlo Lizzani, two fellow militant communist intellectuals, on the script of Aldo Vergano's *Il Sole Sorge Ancora* (The Sun Rises Again, 1946) one of the best films about the Italian partisans.

But unlike Lizzani and De Santis who turned to direction, Aristarco continued as a critic. He joined the staff of the resuscitated magazine *Cinema* which already in fascist years — edited by Vittorio Mussolini, son of the dictator — had been a hotbed for the progressive trends which led to neo-realism. One of the contributors was Umberto Barbaro, Aristarco's own mentor as a Marxist teacher of cinema history. In a review of Rossellini's *Germany Year Zero*, in *Cinema* in 1948, Aristarco praised the film's "rich filmic values", but chastised the director of *Rome, Open City* for ignoring basic editing rules.

While defending the social significance of neo-realism, Aristarco was sceptical about its contribution to film aesthetics. He was already absorbed in the theories of the Soviet director Sergei Eisenstein and was soon to find in the Hungarian Marxist critic George Lukacs's work on the 19th century novel the basis for his own interpretation of realism, transferred from novels to the cinema.

Aristarco had already found himself a lone defender of Luciano Visconti's *La Terra Trema* on the jury of the second post-war Venice Festival in 1949. The film only got an one of the three "international prizes" while the top award went to Laurence Olivier's *Hamlet*. For Aristarco, Visconti's film was the first "neo-realist" film to transmit a realistic historical perspective. Visconti took the writer Verga's naturalism — literally in the case of *La Terra Trema* since he adapted it from the Sicilian's *I Malavoglia*, to a higher level of realism and of course in a Marxist context. Neo-realists like De Santis, in Aristarco's view, used naturalism only to reproduce

a conventional movie genre, the melodrama.

In 1961, Aristarco's *Storia Delle Teoriche del Film* was published. It was a history of film theories which gave Italian readers their first access to the ideas of major international film theorists, including the Italian Luigi Chiarini. The latter was an academic and editorial colleague in many ideological battles, with Chiarini as a Crocean idealist, and Aristarco as a Marxist materialist.

In 1962, Aristarco founded his magazine *Cinema Nuovo*, which he was still publishing when he died. In its pages, he continued to defend his theories even when many in the left, both young and old, had abandoned his type of critical enquiry, accepting an adulation of genre films that Aristarco did not consider worthy of serious aesthetic attention.

In 1963, he had been the centre of an Italian witch-hunt when he published in the magazine a film story project by Renato Castellani, entitled *L'armata d'agosto* (The August Brigade) in which Italian soldiers were shown to be more philanthropists than fighters during the occupation of Greece. Renzi, as an ex-army officer, and Aristarco as publisher were convicted by a military tribunal of offending the army. Grotesque though the case was, it was through the trial that the history of cold war Italian Democracy, a time when Visconti's *Senso* — another prototype for Aristarco's utopia of realist cinema — was heavily censored and insulted by the establishment at its Venice screening. But those like me who were stimulated by Aristarco's thinking found it difficult however to share his view that you had to take sides either with Fellini or Visconti.

Though not many of Aristarco's writings got the attention abroad that they deserved his articles found space in French, Russian and German publications and in English, in *Film Culture*. One of his most interesting works was *Il disimpegno della ragione* (The Dissolution of Reason). A title which a nod towards Kant, for which Lukacs wrote an introduction in which he paid homage to his Italian disciple even if admitting that he himself was not an assiduous follower.

Aristarco also published an edition of the work of Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, whose early films in particular also reached close to Aristarco's filmic Utopia. On his death the brothers commented: "Two critics have linked their names to two great moments of film history: Bazin to the *nouvelle vague* and Aristarco to neo-realism."

John Francis Lano
Guido Aristarco, film critic, born October 7, 1918; died September 11, 1996

Birthdays

- Lucette Aldous, prima ballerina, 58; Julia Allison, general secretary, Royal College of Midwives, 57; Lynn Anderson, country singer, 49; Lady Brown, climber, 66; Jody Margaret Casson, architect, designer, 83; Andrea Dworkin, feminist and writer, 50; Bryan Ferry, rock singer and songwriter, 51; Air Commodore Irene Harris, former director, Nursing Service, RAF, 70; Dick Heckstall-Smith, saxophonist, 62; Sir James Hennessy, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, 73; Robert Jones, MP, Minister for Construction and Planning, 48; Eilyn Llywd, Plaid Cymru MP, 45; Winnie Mandela, political activist, 69; Patricia Mann, vice-president, J Walter Thompson, 59; Olivia Newton-John, pop singer, 48.

Death Notices

- BARNETT**, Gillian Mary, aged 62, on September 23rd, suddenly and peacefully. Buried at St. Peter's Church, St. Albans. Daughter of the late Ben Barnett and the late Dr. Kathleen Ellen, Yeovil and Bristol. Donations to St. Peter's Church, St. Albans, or to the British Red Cross, 11, St. James' Place, London SW1A 1BJ, or to any of our many other charities.
- CRITCHER**, Jane, on September 24th, after a short illness. Beloved daughter of Audrey and the late Bill Critcher. Funeral service, Donations, marked "Jane Critcher", to St. Joseph's House, 14, St. James' Street, London SW1A 1BJ.
- DOWLING**, Dennis Valentine, on September 23rd 1996. The loved husband of Julia. Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Greenford, East End Road, Pinner, Herts, on Tuesday October 1st at 11am. Family flowers only please.
- FRYDE**, Fred Robert on 21st September 1996. The loved husband of Joan and treasured son, brother, nephew and uncle. A wonderful person, who will be missed. Burial service at St. Mary's Church, Greenford, East End Road, Pinner, Herts, on Tuesday October 1st at 11am. Family flowers only please.

Labour pledges

clean. Then I turned to the other one and said, "You're next sucker."

DAY FIVE: So this morning there's this guy in the mirror, thinks he's so tough? Got the big pecks? So what? Got the low body fat? So what? Got the permanent bulge in the pants? So what? I'll tell you one thing right now: I don't like his attitude. Not one bit. So I smacked him in the face — take that pal! — and knocked myself into the middle of next week. Wanna make something of it?

Charles McGraw tells of the effect hearing about hormone therapy for middle aged men had on him. He realised he had no libido and his maximum ejaculatory distance was nothing. So he whipped himself off to Dr Franck's clinic to get some youthful vigour. The New Yorker.

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Finance Guardian

Ford will shed up to 1,000 UK jobs as part of world cuts • Pledge of no compulsory redundancies

Halewood bears the brunt

Chris Barrie and Simon Beavis

FORD yesterday abruptly reopened a programme of intensive job cutting after a two-year lull with the news that it wants to shed up to 1,000 jobs from its UK plants by the end of the year.

The bulk of the job losses will fall on the troubled Halewood factory on Merseyside which is waiting to hear whether it will join sister plants on the Continent in producing a new generation of Escorts.

The news was rushed out last night after hasty meetings with Ford workers at its UK sites. But the announcement was coupled with a pledge that there would be no compulsory redundancies.

The UK market leader has more than halved its workforce since 1989 and now employs only 30,000 people. At the beginning of the 1990s the company had more than 80,000 workers in Britain but has been among the most aggressive in axing jobs to try to boost the efficiency of its plants.

Of the new job losses, at least 500 will fall on Halewood. Ford refused to confirm that the move was linked to news, reported in the Guardian last week, that the company is trying to outsource around 1,000 jobs from the Merseyside plant as the price of committing new investment to make the new Escort there.

But observers believe the latest move is linked to Ford's effort to modernise Halewood and to entice suppliers to set up shop on the periphery of the site. The Government will be asked to provide financial assistance to suppliers.

Ford employs 4,500 in the car factory at Halewood, and another 1,000 at the neighbouring gearbox factory. In the first half of this year the factory suffered repeated bouts of production cuts. By contrast the Dagenham plant in east London is working close to full capacity.

Ford said it expected fewer than 200 jobs to go at Dagenham, fewer than 100 at the Southampton van plant and fewer than 50 at Bridgend. The remainder will be spread around smaller sites.

The company, currently enjoying the fruits of Britain's second biggest car market ever, said that 80% of the jobs to go would be hourly paid workers. The rest would be salaried positions.

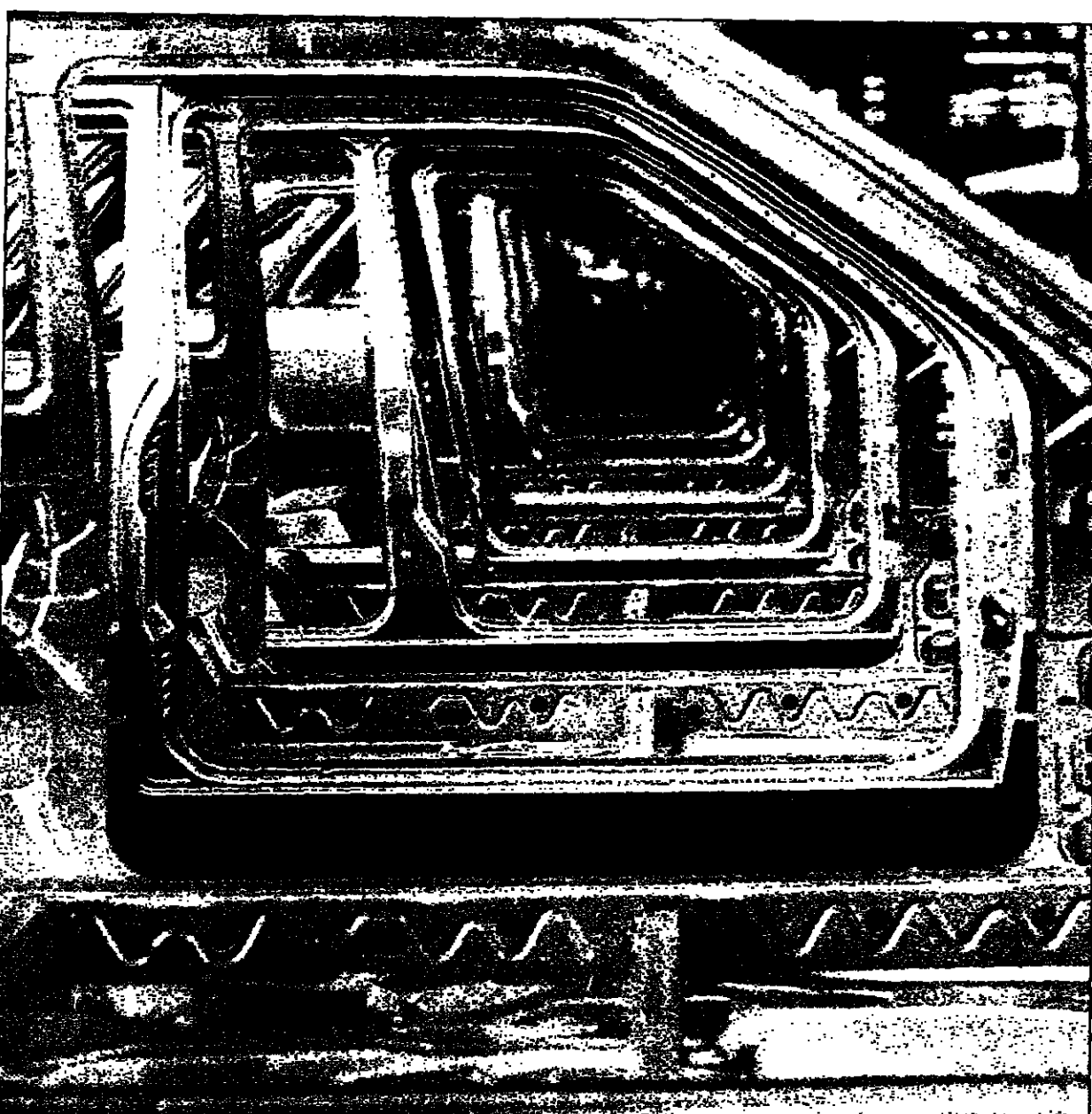
A spokesman said that the cuts were part of a global programme of rationalisation going through at all Ford plants. The cuts were not related to UK market conditions and should not be interpreted as an indication that it fears a downturn in the economy.

Similar cuts have been ordered in North America, the Asia-Pacific region and across the rest of Europe. "This is a global programme to ensure that all our plants are fully competitive," the company said. "It is very important that all our plants can compete with other plants world-wide. British plants must be able to compete on a world-wide basis."

Sources at the Dagenham plant indicated that unions would be "relaxed" about the job cuts, provided that Ford abided by its long-running commitment to avoid enforced redundancies. An enhanced early retirement scheme is expected to be unveiled shortly.

However, observers believe Ford's campaign to boost efficiency by axing huge numbers of jobs has backfired in the recent past. It has been forced to rehire on contract staff who had quit just a short time before on lucrative pay-offs.

Production blow... at least 600 jobs will go at Halewood



PHOTOGRAPH DON MERRIS

Capital wheeze is no great boon



Edited by Mark Milner

BANKERS have always been go-between, providing the bridge between those who had money and those who needed it and were prepared to pay for it. The skill was in allowing depositors reasonable access to their money while at the same time lending on a much longer term basis.

The reward lay in the different rates banks could charge borrowers and lenders. The risk was that borrowers would go bust, leaving the bank to pick up the bill.

So much for banking, old style. Today's banks are different, looking to earn more of their profits from fees (payments for services) rather than from interest income. That is why many have bought investment banks, fund managers and insurance companies.

National Westminster, however, is taking the process of banking evolution a stage further. It is parcelling up some \$5 billion (£3.2 billion) worth of loans to some 300 corporate customers, securitising them and passing the parcel to a group of investors.

That still leaves it as a bridge between lender and borrower but the crucial difference is that as far as the \$5 billion is concerned, it is no longer the bank's capital which is at risk.

It is fair to put the exercise in context. NatWest is hardly pulling out of corporate lending. The \$5 billion is only about one third of the general corporate loan book of its NatWest Markets offshoot. Nor is it based on any kind of necessity. The securitisation process does free up capital, but that is hardly in short supply at NatWest. Capital adequacy ratios are healthy and only recently the bank felt able to give back a hefty chunk of cash back to shareholders.

NatWest argues that the move allows it to take \$5 billion out of what is a very competitive and thus low margin business, allowing it to use the money to create shareholder value elsewhere.

In doing so it is bringing in new lending capacity because the investors who will buy the securitised loans would not have been able to lend to the companies individually. Nor does it believe the exercise will damage its relationship with those companies whose loans it is passing on.

For NatWest the exercise is one which simply makes the process of "intermediation" between lender and borrower more efficient.

Well up to a point, Lord Alton of Liverpool, who has just been appointed to head the new £5 billion of lending capacity from a business where returns are wiser than in securitisation also gives

the bank greater balance sheet flexibility. There is nothing to prevent the bank, perhaps in time of greater capital constraint, repeating the process.

But it could be argued that the whole thing will simply encourage top quality corporate borrowers to cut out the "intermediation" and go direct to the capital markets instead of the banks. It is not as if, these days, they need anyone to show them the way.

There is also the question of what NatWest will do with the extra lending capacity it has created. It could lend the money to yet more corporates. But top quality borrowers would provide the same low returns. Higher returns would involve greater risk.

Alternatively it could eschew fresh lending and use that part of its own capital freed up by the exercise to help fund an acquisition or to give yet more cash back to its shareholders.

The first looks unlikely. NatWest has the financial muscle to buy what it wants without running down its loan book to do so. As for a "buyback" it is one thing to fund such a move from surplus capital, another to do so by cashing in high quality if low margin loans. That might suit shareholders but it is hardly where banks fit into the wider economy.

Jury jolt

LONG and complex fraud trials, by their nature, place a strain on the patience and understanding of ordinary juries. Trying to lighten the burden is proving difficult to say the least.

As he made clear yesterday, Serious Fraud Office director Robert Maxwell is understandably frustrated with a legal system which, on the one hand, tells him his organisation should chop up such long complex cases so that they can be dealt with by a series of small trials, then, on the other, says such severances should be "unusual".

Mr Staple's response is that in a limited number of cases, it might be better to consider whether trial by jury is the best approach.

One alternative worth a look, Mr Staple says, is that recommended by the Roskill committee a decade ago, involving a judge sitting with two lay assessors. Other critics have suggested that jury selection might be limited to those who might be expected to have a better understanding of the issues involved in such trials.

It is hard not to have some sympathy with such views and with the jurors who have to sit through what, by the time they get to court, are often highly technical evidence, much of it having little to do with their own experience.

But that should not be allowed to deflect from the importance of maintaining the present system. Roskill panels or specialist juries may prove more efficient but it is hard to see members of the public having confidence in a system that deals with matters ruled too complex for them to

SFO director urges change to fraud juries

Dan Atkinson

TRIAL BY jury of fraud cases has been "emasculated" by last week's judgment halting any further hearings into the Robert Maxwell affair. Serious Fraud Office director George Staple said yesterday: "A solution to this problem is now urgently required," he added.

Mr Staple said the combined effects of two court rulings — one into the Blue Arrow share rigging case, the other into Maxwell — made it effectively impossible to try the largest and most complex criminal cases in front of an ordinary jury.

"I've always been a great supporter of juries [but]... in these very limited number of cases we have a problem." He suggested re-examination of the 1986 Roskill committee plans for the trial of fraud cases by a judge and two expert assessors.

Mr Staple was making his first statement on last week's ruling by Mr Justice Buckley that there would be no further hearings into allegations against Kevin Maxwell, former chairman of the Maxwell Communication Corporation media group founded by his father, Robert Maxwell.

The judge ruled that an acquittal of Kevin Maxwell by jurors earlier this year on some of the SFO charges

ought to be the last word on his alleged role in the disappearance of £425 million of pension-fund money.

Mr Staple — speaking to a financial crime conference at solicitors Titmuss Salter Dechert — referred back to the appeal-court ruling into the Blue Arrow trial of 1991, when the court had called for "robust and early use" of the power to "sever" complex cases into a smaller number of "manageable" trials.

"This practice, followed in the Maxwell trial, had in effect been ruled out by last week's decision, he suggested. As a result, complex fraud allegations could be tried before a jury neither in one long trial nor in a series of smaller hearings.

"That means the full criminality is unlikely ever to come before a court, nor will all the defendants. The system is thereby emasculated."

The director, who returns to the private sector next April, made it clear he expected the SFO to be fully consulted on any changes to the fraud-trial system.

Mr Staple described the Roskill committee as "very well-qualified", but said he did rule out other alternatives to the present system, chief among which would be the return of "special juries", abolished in 1970, composed of people with academic or business qualifications.

Labour moves to reassure City with pledge not to over-regulate

IN a further attempt to reassure the City, Labour's new Shadow Economic Secretary, Mike O'Brien, yesterday pledged the party would not "over-regulate" the financial community, writes Sarah Wainwright.

He said that although Labour was committed to creating an overall regulator, the party would consult the City on how best to form a single, statutory watchdog out of the existing two-tier system. Labour would not rush to establish it in the first year of government, he added.

The new City spokesman, who took over from Alistair Darling at the end of August, stressed that the plans for a single regulator were an attack on bureaucracy and costs, rather than an attempt to create a tougher regime.

NatWest moves to boost profits by selling £3bn of blue-chip loans

Lina Buckingham

NATIONAL Westminster Bank has decided to bundle up \$5 billion (£3.2 billion) of loans to large corporations and sell them to other investors in an attempt to improve the profits it makes on dealings with big companies.

The bank denied it had decided to securitise a part of its corporate loan book — the first time this has been done in Europe — because it made such poor profits.

A NatWest executive claimed that by bundling up some of its most highly rated loans, the package would be attractive to investors and would free up about £250 million of capital which could be more profitably deployed.

But analysts said a principal motive was that NatWest's margins on lending to big corporations had become "increasingly thin" over the past 10 years and the bank was now trying to improve profits by aiming for higher volumes of business.

Like other big banks, NatWest — which is estimated to lead about a third of blue-chip UK companies — relies on corporate lending to encourage a relationship which may result in more profitable business.

But the rates on lending to big corporates have declined thanks to the arrival of new financing devices such as commercial paper.

Shares in NatWest rose by 14p to 675p as analysts suggested the move would improve the bank's performance. But experts suggested the decision to securitise loans to 300 companies in Britain, Europe and the US could jeopardise the relationship that corporate lending was supposed to foster.

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What securitisation means

SECURITISATION, according to the Dictionary of Finance, means simply "the substitution of securities for bank loans". In effect, banks put together a parcel of their loan exposure — it may be mortgages, or, in NatWest's case, a slice of the corporate lending book — and then sell them in it.

Potential investors are supposed to be tempted by the high quality of the offering plus the easy tradability of the shares. It's rather like a unit trust for the big boys.

For the bank or company doing the securitisation, the deal has the advantage of getting some unwanted exposure off its balance sheet. NatWest, for example, will improve its capital ratios (the important one for banks is the ratio of loans to deposits) which govern how much it can lend and spend by 0.2 per cent. Not much as a percentage, but in hard money that means chief executive, Derek Wansley, has an additional £250 million of firepower for a takeover or more profitable loans.

Commission agrees to prop up bank

Julie Wolf in Brussels and Alex Duval Smith in Paris

THE European Commission yesterday allowed the French government to pump 8.9 billion francs (£490 million) in emergency funding into the troubled Crédit Lyonnais bank while a new bail-out plan is drawn up.

Barly a year after the commission cleared a 45 billion franc restructuring plan for the state-owned bank, European Union Competition Commissioner Karel Van Miert said that he expected Paris to put forward a "significant state-aid package" soon.

The commission yesterday also opened a formal investigation into the new state aid plan. Approval of the stop-gap funding, which is to be spent by the end of the year, is to ensure that the bank does not again move into the red.

BT joins with Murdoch to jump into the Net

Nicholas Bannister on a powerful new entrant into home on-line services

RUPERT Murdoch's News International, bruised from its first attempt to break into the Internet business in the UK, is to make a second attempt next year — this time with the powerful support of British Telecom.

The two groups have teamed up to develop a new Internet service, to be called Springboard, which promises to deliver entertainment, information and education to the home.

BT already has a basic Internet access business and other related services, such as Wireplay, which allows people to play computer games with each other over the Net.

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Pru hopes to go one up on the big banks

Lina Saigol

THE MAN from the Pru, no longer content with merely arranging life insurance, is repositioning himself as a door-to-door bank manager.

The Prudential, Britain's biggest life insurer, signalled its entry into the highly competitive world of retail banking yesterday, with a range of telephone and postal savings accounts and mortgages, backed up by personal visits.

The service, Prudential Banking, cost £70 million to set up, and will offer the company's six million customers a high interest deposit account and a 60-day notice account. Both accounts, which pay interest on a daily basis, are promised to pay about one percentage point more than

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TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 1.9225	France 7.7850	Italy 2.325	Singapore 2.15
Austria 16.05	Germany 2.2825	Malta 0.5445	South Africa 6.6
Belgium 47.00	Greece 364.00	Netherlands 2.5825	Spain 192.00
Canada 2.0850	Hong Kong 11.78	New Zealand 2.1775	Sweden 10.09
Cyprus 0.8880	India 55.54	Norway 8.8675	Switzerland 1.5250
Denmark 8.8075	Ireland 0.9425	Portugal 233.50	Turkey 136.178
Finland 8.9975	Israel 4.94	Saudi Arabia 5.83	USA 1.5275

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Fund forecasts faster growth, but presses for more labour market reform. Alex Brummer reports

IMF gives boost to monetary union

The drive towards European monetary union will be eased by faster growth on the Continent this year and next, the International Monetary Fund forecast yesterday.

The Fund suggests that the current policy mix of tighter budgets, lower interest rates and the depreciation of European exchange rates against the dollar makes it more likely that monetary union can begin on time in 1999, without the risk of crisis on the financial markets.

Across the European Union the IMF forecasts low growth of 1.6 per cent this year, largely as a result of sluggish economies in Germany, France and Italy. However, with the pace of expansion now starting to pick-up, the Fund believes that Europe can achieve 2.5 per cent growth in 1997 and this will help to strengthen the world economy, with growth reaching 4.1 per cent — the best level for five years.

Among the reasons for the better global outlook is the reversal of the downturn in much of the former Soviet empire, with Russia finally expected to pull out of the tailspin prompted by economic reform.

The Fund believes that the improved growth now coming through will boost the chances of larger EU countries meeting the Maastricht criteria. But it still has grave concerns about the prospects for EMU after 1999 unless additional efforts are made to reduce the growth of public spending, reform labour markets so as to bring down unacceptably high levels of unemployment and to deregulate business.

On the budgetary front, the IMF applauds the efforts made in Dublin at the weekend to put in place a stability pact designed to keep downward pressure on budget deficits. But IMF chief economist Michael Mussa was adamant that over the medium-term Europe should not be satisfied with budget deficits at 3

per cent of gross domestic product — it should be aiming for near fiscal balance. The Fund argues that "significant backsliding" on already announced efforts to control budget deficits would have "severe implications for interest rates and financial market confidence" and could "derail the EMU process". Among the Fund's greatest concerns in Europe are the problems in the labour market which it believes have contributed to "a dramatic

jobless rate and taking some of the pressure off domestic budgets. Changes recommended include an end to over-generous unemployment payments; tightening criteria for dole payments; cutting taxes on employment; and

restraining rises in minimum wages. The US economy, under President Clinton, comes in for some rare praise from the IMF, which for much the last decade was a severe critic of US fiscal policy and its effects on interest rates around the

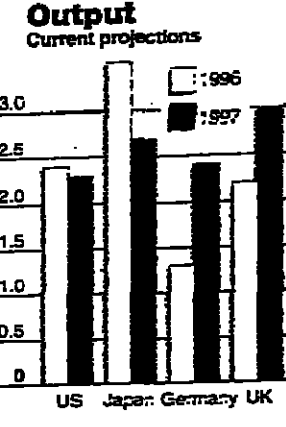
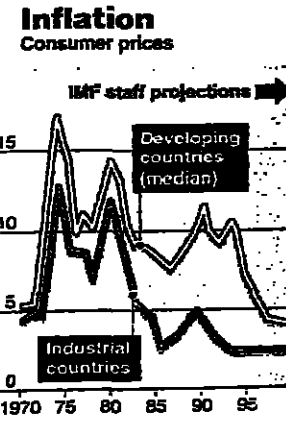
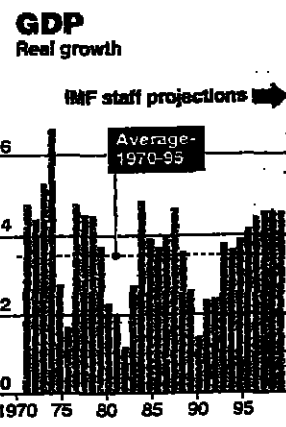
globe. It says that the US "has been particularly successful in recent years in achieving a high level of employment and maintaining growth at close to its potential rate with low inflation". The Fund's chief economist chose not to quarrel with the Federal Reserve's decision on Tuesday not to raise the federal funds — the US market interest rate — before the November elections. But there are plainly concerns ahead. With unemployment close to 5 per cent in the US, the American economy is seen to be in untested territory.

Concern is expressed that output growth is now threatening to exceed levels consistent with low inflation and the Fund believes that it may be necessary to raise interest

rates before too long; particular risks will arise should the US growth rate start to pick up again towards the 3 per cent level projected for 1996 and 2.8 per cent in 1997.

The IMF believes that Japan has finally pulled itself out of the doldrums of the first half of the 1990s and should achieve strong growth of 3.5 per cent this year, the best performance among the G7 industrial countries. But the Japanese government may soon have to consider whether the current loose fiscal policies and low interest rates can be safely retained for much longer.

World Economic Outlook. Published by the International Monetary Fund, Washington DC, October 1996.



'Backsliding on budget deficits could derail the EMU process'

upward trend in unemployment over the last 25 years. It urges Europe to begin adopting the radical labour market reforms seen in countries such as the UK and New Zealand in recent years as a means of achieving better growth, bringing down the

restraining rises in minimum wages. The US economy, under President Clinton, comes in for some rare praise from the IMF, which for much the last decade was a severe critic of US fiscal policy and its effects on interest rates around the

Barratt makes plans to build on house-price recovery hopes

BARRATT Developments, one of the UK's largest housebuilders, yesterday predicted that house prices would rise on average by about 4 per cent over the next 12 months, writes Pauline Spragg.

Sir Lawrie Barratt, the company's founder and chairman, said the housing market continued to be most buoyant in the southern region. House price rises had been around the 5 per cent level over the past year, but were now levelling off, he said.

The strength of the market, particularly in the South-east, is enabling Barratt to cut the discounts it offers to housebuyers. However, it is still operating its part-exchange service, through which it made 4,000 of its 7,025 sales during the year. This scheme costs the company about £2,500 per house and the average Barratt house costs £83,800.



Home news... Barratt chairman, Sir Lawrie Barratt (right), with chief executive Frank Eaton, says house prices rose 5pc this year. PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

CBI opposes Budget giveaway

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday told the Chancellor to rule out a giveaway pre-election Budget in November and urged the Government to concentrate on cutting state borrowing.

Calling for a "prudent" package, the employers' organisation said Kenneth Clarke should spurn the demands of his backers for voter-friendly measures.

Adair Turner, the CBI's director-general, said the main priority for Mr Clarke was to keep the economy on a course for steady growth. "If that means a boring Budget, we wouldn't object to that."

A shortfall in tax revenues has meant that the improvement in the public finances has been far slower than the Treasury expected and the CBI expressed concern yesterday that with no action in the Budget the public sector borrowing requirement in 1997-98 could be almost £28 billion.

Mr Turner said the state of the public finances was the one negative part of an otherwise rosy economic picture. On public spending, the CBI argued for a £5.3 billion cut in the control total, of which £3.3 billion would be savings made because inflation has been lower than expected.

In addition, industry leaders would like Mr Clarke to announce a contingency reserve, which pays for unforeseen expenditure. Mr Turner said that further spending cuts might be possible, but the CBI did not want to see the axe taken to education, training and infrastructure budgets.

Although the £2 billion from the contingency reserve would be enough to cut the basic rate of income tax by a penny in the pound to 23 pence, the CBI said tax cuts should be limited to a maximum of £1 billion. It added that any cuts should be directed towards higher personal allowances to take more people out of tax completely, rather than lowering the basic rate. This will help address the disincentive effect presently created by the combined impact of tax and benefit withdrawal," it said.

The CBI acknowledged that the scope for reductions in business taxation was also limited, but proposed measures costing a total of £400 million aimed at helping small and medium-sized enterprises. These included extending the Enterprise Investment Scheme, allowing more companies to pay the lower rate of corporation tax, making the raising of equity finance tax deductible and giving tax breaks for research and development.

Over the longer term, the CBI is urging a full review of capital gains tax, including the option of taxing longer-term gains at a lower rate, a proposal that has echoes of the Labour party's call for two-tier capital gains tax. It also stressed the desirability, when affordable, of allowing 100 per cent first-year capital allowances on the first £200,000 of capital expenditure to boost investment.

Barclays Bank and head of the CBI's economic committee, said the CBI was looking for a cautious Budget. "Radical action is not needed to support competitiveness and economic growth — what is needed above all is continuity of the more stable economic conditions we have achieved over the past four years."

Greenpeace woos business

Roger Cowe

AT A ground-breaking business conference in London yesterday, environmental group Greenpeace called on companies to step into the void left by politicians and take a lead in developing solutions to environmental problems.

Greenpeace executive director Peter Melchett said the organisation wanted to work with business to develop alternatives to damaging fossil fuels, chlorine-based chemicals and plastics.

"The new environmental struggle is to put solutions into practice. Solutions are only prevented from becoming mainstream because they are suppressed... held back by specific vested interests in business and politics and starved of interest and investment," he told an audience of executives from more than 70 leading companies.

Opening the conference on the role of business in the wake of the Brent Spar affair two years ago, consultant John Elkington said Shell's defeat over sinking the redundant oil platform had changed the thinking in Britain's boardrooms on environmental issues.

Companies had begun to realise they could not rely solely on scientific analysis and agreements with governments and that environmental

issues were part of a broader ethical arena. "Brent Spar marked the watershed in business thinking. Successful companies of the future will have to work out ways of engaging even groups like Greenpeace in the evolution of their environmental strategies."

But Mr Melchett warned that "solutions campaigning" did not mean an end to confrontational action. "Co-operation is a part of, not an alternative to, confrontation. At the same time as we are working with one part of a company, such as BP on solar energy, we are campaigning against another arm of BP opening up a new oil field off the Shetlands," he said.

What I might have to do to prevent one."

SOcialist peer Lord Hollick's Daily Express is busy educating its readers into the realities of life under the baron's favourite political party. An item on September 20 headed: "Chance for directors in Labour tax regime" puffs a seminar by solicitors Clifford Chance this week in which lawyers will suggest "it might be worthwhile for directors to speed up their bonus plans to help avoid paying income tax". The article says: "Certainly it is not the intention of Clifford Chance to advise the better-off on how to avoid paying extra

if there is a Labour government." Perish the thought.

MILTON Friedman — for whom there was famously no such thing as a free lunch — was wrong. Hays Accountancy Personnel's survey today lists the "small, inexpensive perks" that can make the difference between a happy workforce and a mutinous crew. These perks are costed — staff biscuits (£12), subsidised drinks cabinet (£50 a month; optimistic. We would have thought). And then there is "leave early on Friday", a day off for Christmas shopping and another for birthdays. All, according to Hays, are free! Of course, time off is not actually cost-free; perhaps Hays means it is free for the company, in that the remaining employees will have to work harder. Give us a Gradgrind over a Hays-approved gunny any day.

YOB culture has claimed another victim — the CBI. Yesterday's unveiling of the bosses' Budget proposals (an austere package, no doubt to sack up to Labour) at Centre Point was marred by a Quatermass-style

GrandMet offloads £140m optician

Lisa Buckingham

GRAND Metropolitan, the food and drink company, yesterday ended one of its less happy business associations with the sale of Pearle, the optician, for £140 million.

GrandMet has sold the US-based operation to Cole National Corporation, an American optician, for a price which was at the upper end of market expectations. Shares rose 5p to 476p as a result.

The long-awaited disposal is part of GrandMet's strategy of honing its business down to food and drink. The company had refused to become a forced seller of Pearle, insist-

ing that the business should be turned into a profit maker before buyers were sought. Pearle, which has a network of more than 870 outlets in North America, the Caribbean and Europe, had sales of £228 million in the year to last September on which it made £10 million operating profit.

According to GrandMet, which acquired Pearle in 1985, the assets included in the deal total £150 million, of which £64 million is regarded as the value of the Pearle brand name. The value does not include £265 million of goodwill which will be written off.

The sale of Pearle, which follows years in which GrandMet denied that the business

was on the market, comes just two weeks after the group sold its Erasco food business in Germany to America's Campbell Soup corporation for £140 million.

The British group is expected to raise up to £150 million from the sale of under-performing European foods operations such as Brassard which have dragged down the results of GrandMet.

Last year European foods reported operating profits of just £23 million on turnover of £600 million.

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News in brief

Brent fends off former chief

BRENT Walker yesterday won a High Court injunction preventing George Walker, its founder and former chairman, from attempting to wind up the leisure group. Mr Walker was threatening to seek a winding-up order against his debt-ridden former empire over a £6.25 million legal wrangle. It is believed he planned to launch the action if Brent Walker did not pay the money into a trust account within one week.

Yesterday's move stops him from attempting a winding-up before 9 October. Mr Walker's demands follow a French court's decision to award him £3.28 million plus interest in respect of his dispute with Brent Walker. The company is appealing against the verdict — and so claims that the award is unenforceable. Mr Walker is also appealing, in the hope of getting the award increased to £18 million. — Sarah White bloom

Loral flies high

LORAL Space & Communications, the US satellite group, is to acquire AT&T's SkyNet Satellite Services for \$712.5 million (£457 million), creating one of the world's largest satellite-based businesses.

The agreement, which is expected to take six months to complete, represents a bold step by Loral to rival satellite networks owned by General Motors and the government consortium, Inmarsat. The move comes less than a week after General Motors' Hughes Electronics arm agreed to buy PanAmSat for \$3 billion to create a company with 14 satellites in orbit. — Dominic Walsh

Orimulsion is off

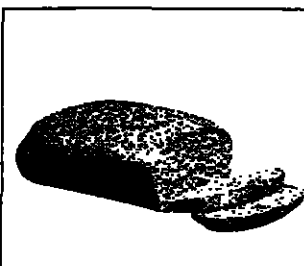
ENVIRONMENTAL campaigners celebrated last night after PowerGen announced the closure of the Ince power station which burns the controversial fuel Orimulsion. PowerGen said the closure of the 500 megawatt station near Chester was for economic reasons. Friends of the Earth said the closure from next March with the loss of 41 jobs was a death blow to the fuel — a mixture of bitumen and water, imported from Venezuela, and sometimes dubbed "the world's dirtiest".

A National Power remains committed to using Orimulsion at Pembroke power station.

Underside

Dan Atkinson

THE Chancellor is either chronically gaffe-prone or has been treated with that powerful truth drug featured in one particularly amusing Tintin adventure. On top of his explosive confessions of full-blown Europhilia, Three Pints was recently at lunch with a crew of small-business types. What, he was asked, were the dangers facing the economy. "There are only two," he replied, "the possibility of a Labour government and



"Mrs Gunn attacked her parsimonious husband with an egg whisk after an argument over how much sugar she had put in her coffee. She'd used 53 grains instead of 45."

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Amsterdam
Smart Class
not Club Class
£35
easyJet

مكتبات الامارات

BI oppose budget fiveaway

The Guardian Thursday September 26 1996

Rugby League PNG President's XIII 8 Great Britain 34 Powell makes Test case

Andy Wilson in Mount Hagen

WITH five minutes of Great Britain's opening tour game gone and 10 points on the scoreboard, the 12 players experiencing rugby league in Papua New Guinea for the first time must have been wondering what all the fuss was about.

They had been led to expect tough opposition and a packed, hostile crowd: instead Keith Senior and David Bradbury, both international debutants, had run in simple tries to polite applause from less than 1,000 locals in the ramshackle stadium here.

Three hours later, however, the youngsters were mightily relieved not only to have come away with an impressive win against aggressive and skillful opposition but also to have made the last flight back to Lae. They were grateful, too, for the calming influence of their captain Daryl Powell, the only one of Britain's 17-man squad who had played in PNG before.

The crowd built up considerably as the President's XIII made the Lions fight for every point, especially after the gates were thrown open and the six-kina admission charge was waived shortly after half-time to prevent any trouble outside the ground. A predictable but good-natured pitch invasion at full time was repelled by several police with fierce looking dogs who protected the British squad until they were whisked to the bus, a nearby hotel to shower and then to the plane.

It was uneventful stuff compared to last Sunday's domestic fixture in Lae, which was abandoned after 60 minutes because of a riot which claimed four lives, but it was still enough to have the Castleford half-back Tony Smith "wondering if we would get out of there alive".

It did not worry Powell. The 31-year-old, who was recently appointed Keighley player/coach in succession to Phil Larder, came on tour only as a late replacement for the injured Paul Newlove; his performance, initially at stand-off but for more than half the game as a remarkably influential right-wing, must put him in line for a 29th Test cap.

Larder was full of praise for Powell. "I have always been a big Daryl fan," Great Britain's coach said. "He has been superb all week, especially with the younger players. He is a born leader and he will be a bloody good coach."



Gripping encounter... Barrie-Jon Mather holds firm under pressure during Great Britain's opening tour game in Papua New Guinea

clever pass from the St Helens loose forward Karl Hammond, but it was his fierce defence which marked him out as another contender for Saturday's Test team.

Larder was happy with Oldham's young back-row forward Bradbury, another whose selection raised a number of eyebrows, who took the eye, doing enough to win the players' vote as man of the match.

Bradbury's try was simple enough, taking a

minute try from Hammond, the best of the match. But they did have four "tries" disallowed by the local referee Tony Kuni; the Test will be controlled by an Australian Super League official.

Great Britain's President's XIII John, Tim, Mooka, Paka, Icar, Baka, Mai, Sari, Daniel, Baka, Aki, Norman, Kaniaki, Saka, Saka, Tote, Zuku, Kaniyami, Sari, Redfret T Kuni (Port Moresby).

SPORTS NEWS 13

Racing Bahhare off to Dubai for the winter warmth

Chris Hawkins

BAHHARE, the 5-1 favourite for the 2,000 Guineas, will spend the winter in Dubai before coming back to John Dunlop's stable next spring.

Hamdan Al-Maktoum, the colt's owner, has decided to follow the highly successful policy of his brother Sheikh Mohammed in taking horses to the Gulf, although the crucial difference is that Fahim will not race under the Godolphin banner with Saeed bin Suwair when returned to Britain.

Several Dunlop two-year-olds will be leaving in two or three weeks' time, including the highly rated Sabm and Shawaf, while the Dick Hern-trained Sarayir, a half-sister to Nashwan, is likely to join them after running in Sunday's Fillyes Mile at Ascot.

"The plan is to take a number of the better two-year-olds to benefit from the climate," said Angus Gold, racing manager at Hamdan Al-Maktoum. "But as yet there is no final list."

He too is Dubai-bound but the race was run never likely to make his presence felt and finished this morning.

Fahim, the favourite, needs to be held up, but the way the race was run never likely to make his presence felt and finished this morning.

John Reid rode his 100th winner of the season when parting Voyagers Quest to a neck victory over Stanton Harcourt in the St Ivel Gold Maiden Stakes.

The ever-reliable Reid, who seems to make very few mistakes, rates his Eclipse Stakes win on Halling and Prix Salazar success on Revogue as the highlights of his season.

Goodwood with form for the Jackpot races

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes races like 2.30 Select Star, 4.00 Wizard King, 2.30 VULCANIA GAS APPLIANCE MURDERY HANDICAP, 3.30 ROOF LISTS BATED HANDICAP, 4.00 CHARLTON HUNT SUPPERS STAKES, 4.30 APACHE WEST STAKES, 5.00 J.S. HARDY'S HANDICAP.

Pontefract

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes races like 2.45 Mr's Bonanza, 3.20 Polar Flight, 3.50 SOUTHERLY WIND, 2.45 ARBO DEVELOPMENTS HANDICAP, 3.20 FINEST HOUR HANDICAP, 3.50 RUFFIAN HANDICAP, 4.20 WINDMILL HANDICAP, 4.50 WINDMILL HANDICAP.

Perth (N.H.)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes races like 2.10 Kemor, 2.40 Commodore Glen, 3.40 Newhall Prince, 4.10 Bourdonnais, 4.40 Tiger Budget, 5.10 North Sea Lady.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results. Lists race names and the names of the winning horses.

GOODWOOD

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results. Lists race names and the names of the winning horses.

PERTH

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results. Lists race names and the names of the winning horses.

PONTEFRACT

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Results. Lists race names and the names of the winning horses.

WINDMILL

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Carson's progress RACELINE 0930 168+ GOODWOOD 101 201 PONTFRAC 102 202 PERTH 103 203

EUROPEAN SOCCER



Left Wright... the Arsenal striker makes no mistake with his less-favoured foot to bring the Gunners level at 1-1 on half-time last night

Uefa Cup, first round, second leg: Borussia Moenchengladbach 3, Arsenal 2 (agg: 6-4)

Battling Arsenal learn home truths

Martin Thorpe in Cologne

ARSENE WENGER'S first match in charge of Arsenal ended with his first defeat yesterday but his new team came a glorious second here. For all Arsenal's spirit and fight, they could not match Borussia's slick attacks and clinical finishing which exuded a ruthlessness that Wenger will view as a priority to inject into his new side.

then pouncing on the break. "We came to have a go," said Wenger's No. 2, Pat Rice. "In the end we were disappointed." Ultimately that 3-2 defeat at home in the first leg proved too much.

In the tradition of much of Arsenal's season they had to go behind last night before showing their best. But they came back impressively and pulled only one more goal to pull off a remarkable victory.

But, as Arsenal pushed for the winner, the Germans were often allowed to break into the sort of striking positions that they know how to exploit. At first the swift on-ones that unlocked the back line came to nothing.

But, as Arsenal pushed for the winner, the Germans were often allowed to break into the sort of striking positions that they know how to exploit. At first the swift on-ones that unlocked the back line came to nothing.

There were simply too many Germans back for any sort of shot to get through. In injury time Borussia broke away again. Wyndol surging down the left and pulling the ball back for the unmarked Juskowiak to score his second goal of the night.

Atkinson and Strachan face second FA charge

Peter White

THE Coventry City manager Ron Atkinson and his assistant Gordon Strachan were charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association yesterday.

The pair were seen on television arguing with the officials after a contentious goal for Chelsea during the match at Stamford Bridge in August.

A handball by Dan Petrescu from a throw out by the Coventry goalkeeper Steve Ogilvie was not acknowledged by the referee or linesman and Frank Leboeuf went on to score the first goal in a 2-0 win.

To add to the woes, Coventry's centre-half Liam Daish faces a similar charge. He was sent off by the referee Paul Danson for foul and abusive language during the melee that followed Leboeuf's goal but the charge relates to an incident outside the referee's dressing-room after the game.

Daish was sent off again on Tuesday night in the Coca-Cola Cup victory at his previous club Birmingham. Atkinson, Strachan and Daish have been given 14 days to respond to the charges.

It is the second time this season that Atkinson and Strachan have been charged with disrepute. In a reserve game against West Bromwich Albion on August 29, Strachan refused to leave the field after being shown the red card, which held up the game for 14 minutes.

Hodde wants many happy returns

David Lacey on typical selection problems for England's new coach

WITH only one match gone Glenn Hodde, England's new coach, is having to fill in the cracks.

He has lost Steve Stone, out for the season at Nottingham Forest, and Tottenham's Teddy Sheringham, and another Spurs

player Darren Anderton is playing like a groin operation waiting to happen, but most of those declared unfit for Kishinev are, in theory, ready to return.

They include Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler, who pulled out last time with back injuries but have continued playing for Liverpool. Tony Adams and David Platt have resumed operations for Arsenal, and Steve Howey is back in Newcastle United's defence.

In addition Graeme Le Saux is on the mend for Blackburn but surely not ready to resume international duties. McManaman's present

form demands his recall, although Manchester United's David Beckham made a sound start against Moldova and will be hard to ignore. So much will depend on players not picking up further injuries over the weekend, always assuming they have survived the European games.

If Hodde suffers another rash of withdrawals, only to find the casualties continuing to appear for their clubs after the Poland match, then the Football Association may well look further into the possibility of insisting that a player pulled out of the England team automatically misses his team's next Premier-league fixture.

Both Platt and Adams will be eager to resume their international careers

but under Hodde this may be easier said than done. Platt ought to be in today's squad but a place in the team will depend on the kind of function Hodde believes he can fulfil in the new system.

Adams, England's inspiring captain in the European Championship, already knows that Hodde prefers the more reserved leadership of Alan Shearer. His recall, moreover, will depend not only on the coach's view of his ability in a three-man defence but the extent of the FA's sympathy towards Adams's recent revelation of alcoholism.

Adams has received Lancaster Gate's backing in his fight against the bottle. But allowing a self-confessed alcoholic to be picked for a World Cup qualifier so

Champions League Group A Rangers 1, Auxerre 2

Rangers fall to Deniaud double

Patrick Glenn

RANGERS had to endure another hard night in Europe in a contest where willingness rather than wit was their main weapon. For most of the match, it was an inadequate tool, allowing Thomas Deniaud to posh a two-goal lead for Auxerre before Paul Gascoigne pulled one back 20 minutes from the end.

The Scottish champions' determination to impose themselves on a crucial match was manifest in the first 15 minutes when they put their opponents under unrelenting pressure.

But to the disappointment of the home crowd, their early efforts failed to bear fruit, even if there were a couple of anxious moments for a French defence still trying to familiarise themselves with each other's play.

In the absence of their regular central defensive partnership of Silvestre and Zelic, Auxerre had to play the largely unrehearsed combination of West and Danjou and Rangers tried to upset them as early as possible.

The first to trouble Charbonnier was Paul Gascoigne with a wickedly struck free-kick from the right which the goalkeeper failed to hold at his near post and conceded a corner.

Gough almost opened the scoring with a powerful, accurate header from Albert's cross which best Charbonnier to his left, but was cleared almost from the goal-line by Lamouchi.

The intensity of confrontations in these games leads almost inevitably to misadventures and four were cautioned during the first half - Diomede and Wlochau of Auxerre and Gascoigne and Moore of Rangers.

Even before the striker Deniaud gave Auxerre the lead after 54 minutes, it was impossible to escape the impression that the French team, perhaps during the interval, had convinced themselves that they could do some damage.

There was a confidence about their forward surge which had not been there before. Diomede typified this more positive attitude when he held the ball on the left long enough to tease Moore into the challenge and skipped past him before delivering the ball to the head of Deniaud who, from 10 yards, glanced it away to the left of Goram and into the net.

Diomede could have scored soon afterwards too, when he was released by Wlochau weighted lob from Saib and bore down on Goram. The left-foot shot from 15 yards would have left the goalkeeper helpless, but it was inches out and the ball bounced off the outside of the post.

But what was already a dark night became even blacker for Rangers in the 68th minute when Deniaud added his second. A corner from the right landed on the head of the big forward and, unchallenged, he simply nodded it over the line from four yards.

Gascoigne brought a little light just three minutes later, however, when he drilled to Laudrup's centre from the right and, from 12 yards, bulletted a header into Charbonnier's left-hand corner.

Scots try to pull plug on BBC

THE SCOTTISH football authorities will try to stop the BBC broadcasting live Scotland's World Cup qualifying match against Latvia in Riga on October 5.

Although the game kicks off at 2pm British time, the Scottish FA and Scottish League both believe coverage would conflict with the full programme of matches in the Scottish First, Second and Third Divisions which is scheduled to start an hour later.

The SFA is insisting that under Uefa rules there should be no live transmission of matches on a Saturday afternoon between 1pm and 6pm.

It says it has had no request to screen the Latvia match live and would block any attempt to do so.

Peter Donald, the Scottish League secretary, said: "I cannot be on live under article 14 of the Uefa rule book which does not permit screenings on Saturday afternoons. There is a full programme in the First, Second and Third Divisions and it would clearly not be in their interests if the national team were on television in opposition."

But Mike Abbott of BBC Scotland said it had bought the rights to the game "via an agent acting for the Latvian FA". He added: "We bought the rights in good faith, so if Uefa it will be the Latvian authorities who sold the rights."

"We believe it is a game the nation will want to see and we intend to screen it and the fixture against Estonia in Tallinn on the following Wednesday. We have done the deal for the Latvia match and have a Grandstand programme scheduled around it."

As far as an agent concerned, any problem there might be is football's. What about last night when Aston Villa were on live against Coca-Cola Cup football in England and a First Division game in Scotland? We are into a free market in my view and what can they do to stop us?"

The BBC was heavily criticised for not showing live Scotland's opening World Cup qualifier, a goalless draw with Austria in Vienna last month.

"That was down to budget," said Abbott. "We have always said we will do international fixtures for next showing live Scotland's opening World Cup qualifier, a goalless draw with Austria in Vienna last month."

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Anfield awaits big fry

erguson out November

Sullivan's light



McManaman... available

soon after mounting a campaign against the demon drink may be another matter altogether. In truth, Adams would be surprised to be recalled now.

Half the 76,000 tickets have already been sold for the England-Poland game. "We haven't seen interest like this for a very long time," said a Wembley spokesman.

Thorn picked up by Rovers

TRANMERE ROVERS last night signed the former Wimbledon defender Andy Thorn on a two-year contract.

Rovers' player-manager John Aldridge brought in the 29-year-old as cover for John McCreel who is expected to be out for three months after undergoing ankle surgery.

Thorn, who will make his debut at Norwich on Saturday, has recently finished a month's contract with Hearts. Leicester City are still trying to bring Jesper Blomqvist to Filbert Street. The manager Martin O'Neill has watched the German striker twice but his chances of signing Blomqvist looked bleak when the player was told he had to see out his contract with the Swedish champions. But the 21-year-old Swede becomes a free agent in December.

O'Neill said: "I'm keeping a close eye on the situation. I don't want to think it's dead and buried."

Sheffield United's chairman Mike McDonald has ordered the team to watch a re-run of the full 90 minutes it took for United to collapse to a 5-2 defeat against Stockport in the Coca-Cola Cup on Tuesday.

In a letter to the team captain Alan Kelly, McDonald wrote: "I had to suffer through 90 minutes and the players must be expected to do the same."

Table with sports results including Soccer, Champions Cup, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Tennis, Baseball, Snooker, Fixtures, Soccer, and Badminton.

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Soccer

Anfield awaits big fry

IT WOULD take a brave man to forecast Liverpool becoming part of the seemingly popular British trend of teams slipping out of Europe...

The days when the arrival on Merseyside of a team of relative no-hopers was met with genuine fascination by the fans have long gone.

The part-timers are simply happy to be in Liverpool, which would suggest that they will readily concur with the idea that their Cup Winners' Cup adventure was effectively ended amid the fir trees of southern Finland...

"We are just thrilled to be playing at such a famous stadium," said John Allen, MyPa's Chester-born striker.

"Liverpool were brilliant in the first game. I don't think they stepped up into top gear even once."

"We all laughed when we heard they had crushed Chelsea at the weekend. If they can stuff a team worth millions, what are they going to do to us?"

Struggle, if last season's dismal 1-0 home defeat by Brondby in the second round of the Uefa Cup is any barometer.

Liverpool's manager Roy Evans delivered a predictable line in cautious optimism, warning against the danger of complacency while talking enthusiastically about jobs that need to be finished.

"The simple truth is there are no mugs left in Europe," he said. "They are all so well organised these days, not so much organised to beat you but organised to stop you beating them."

Evans is likely to resist the temptation to alter the composition of a side that has yet to lose this season, although his hand will be forced if Dominic Matteo fails to recover from a knee injury.

"Yes, I could make changes but I tend to go along with the theory that suggests if it has broken it doesn't need mending," said Evans.

"It is not as if we are streets ahead; we got a reasonable result in Finland but they aren't going to come here and make it easy for us. We must have the right attitude, as if we were playing against a really top team."

Olympic Games

John Duncan on a BOA document revealing financial rewards up to £20,000 for successful competitors in Sydney and Nagano

British athletes to get cash for medal wins

BRITISH athletes will be paid cash for medals in Sydney and Nagano as a response to their poor showing in Atlanta, according to a British Olympic Association document released yesterday.

The document, a previously internal paper, is titled "The BOA's Athlete Performance Strategy to 2000", outlines a 12-point plan which will be adopted for the next four years.

Point 11 details the unprecedented move to reward medals: "Appropriate financial rewards to be offered for all medalists in Sydney and Nagano, eg gold medal - £20,000."

This would be the first time such a scheme had operated for British athletes and comes out of an informal consultation with athletes, coaches and administrators during the 1996 Olympics.

However, the British reward is less generous than that of France, who enjoyed a very successful Games with 16 gold medals to Britain's one. Their scale starts at £30,000 for gold, £20,000 for silver and £15,000 for bronze.

Other elements of the plan include "lifestyle support for agreed athletes during the Olympic cycle". This is aimed at avoiding the embarrassing situation of athletes struggling to make ends meet.

Paul Palmer, the swimming silver medalist in the 400 metres freestyle, fended himself by working in an Italian restaurant. There will also be a move towards offering cash to governing bodies related to achievement.

The BOA is only a third of the way through a more in-depth briefing of governing bodies and only six of the 21 relevant team managers have discussed the lessons of Atlanta with the association.

Each debrief lasts half a day. "The only disappointing thing for me," said Kevin Hickey, the BOA technical director, "is that the Germans have conducted a review of Atlanta and put in a programme to deal with their problems in the space of four weeks but, because of the number of coordinating bodies here, that is very difficult for us."

The BOA debrief is likely to end by November. Dick Palmer, the BOA general secretary, reiterated his belief that one of the reasons for the Atlanta performance was money. "I believe we have fine reservoirs of pretty good young talent in this country," he said, "and their medal chances would be improved if they were better resourced, if they didn't have to worry about their dolle money or whether they would get a training grant every 12 months."

Palmer also suggested that British success in Atlanta had been underplayed. "The British delegation was the smallest since Moscow in 1980, 24 per cent smaller than Barcelona, and the number of countries participating was 17 per cent higher than 1992," he said.



Back in step... the England squad, with Mike Catt to the fore, jump to it at Bishop's Cleeve. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Rugby Union

Letter fails to heal rift

Paul Morgan

PETER WHEELER, one of the leading members of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, last night revealed that Tony Hallett's secret letter to Epruc had not broken the deadlock between the clubs and Twickenham.

Yesterday The Guardian revealed that the Rugby Football Union secretary had written to Epruc, which represents England's top clubs, offering them an attractive financial package to stay within the RFU.

Part of the package was 10 per cent of gate revenue from Twickenham internationals for the clubs.

However, Epruc feels that Hallett's offer is still to be sanctioned by the RFU, and they fear it does not have the backing of the union's executive committee.

Wheeler, chief executive of Leicester, said: "Vitality, it came directly from Hallett and didn't have the authority of the RFU, which I imagine left Cliff Brittle [chairman of the executive committee] very upset."

"The letter itself shows a change in attitude but the fact that it came from Hallett alone takes the sparkle off it. We have contingency plans to break away and to stay - it is not too late to stop us going."

Epruc is now demanding that the RFU puts together a negotiating team that can make instant decisions.

New crisis at the Welfare Ground

Newbridge strike threat

David Plummer

NEWBRIDGE, who are bottom of the Welsh First Division, yesterday lost their entire coaching staff and face having to call off their match against Newport on Saturday because of a threatened players' strike over alleged non-payment of wages.

Newbridge's coaching director Roger Powell has resigned after the club's poor start to the season. They won their opening game against Treorchy but then lost the next five, the last three by overwhelming margins which saw them concede 203 points and 29 tries.

His coaching staff of three - Keith James, Mike Gray and Gary Lewis - followed him, along with the fitness adviser Alan Rockcliffe, after a meeting with the club's committee. Two players, Nigel Meek and Leighton Phillips, have been put in temporary charge.

They could have to wait for their first game because it is understood that the Newbridge squad is holding a meeting tonight to discuss what action to take over what they say has been a non-payment of wages by the club.

Newbridge, who lost virtually a whole team during the summer, are currently embroiled in a dispute with Pontypridd over the fly-half Jason Strang, who has put in for a transfer. Strang's contention is that he is a free agent because, he claims, his contract was not honoured by Newbridge, but the Gwent club is demanding a £30,000 transfer fee from Pontypridd.

The matter has been referred to the Welsh Rugby Union. Orrell are prepared to take their wrangle with Llanelli over the former All Black Frano Botica to the courts. Both clubs are claiming rights to the player, who originally agreed to play rugby league for Castleford in the summer Super League and union with Orrell for the next two winters.

Ferguson out to November

EVERTON'S problems worsened when they learned that their Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson is likely to be out for the next six weeks after a cartilage operation, writes Ian Ross.

Ferguson will miss Scotland's World Cup qualification in Latvia and Estonia on October 5 and 9, and probably the home one against Sweden on November 10.

The Everton manager Joe Royle took the unusual step yesterday of making a public apology for his team's performance on Tuesday in the Coca-Cola Cup defeat by York City. "I would apologise for our current form but I would also ask our supporters to show patience," he said.

Graeme Souness has stepped up his largely fruitless quest to sign new players. The Southampton manager has offered £1.5 million for Andre Flo - younger brother of Jostein - to the Norwegian First Division side SK Brann, and £700,000 for Egil Oestestad of Norway's Viking Stavanger.

Boxing

Lewis in line for capital title fight

LENNOX LEWIS is expected to meet Oliver McCall for the WBC heavyweight championship at the London Arena on November 22, more than two years after losing the same title to the American inside two rounds at Wembley.

Lewis's manager Frank Maloney yesterday flew to Mexico to bid for the match after the WBC called for purse offers for the meeting between its top two challengers. The moves follow the WBA champion Mike Tyson's decision to relinquish the WBC version rather than face Lewis as the two are signed to rival TV channels in the US.

However, the American promoter Don King will also bid in the hope of staging the match in Las Vegas on the bill with Tyson's WBA title defence against Evander Holyfield on November 9.

Golf

Lehman enjoys the Open road beyond dull care

David Davies hears how success at Lytham banished a nightmare and gave the American, right, belief in himself

TOM LEHMAN'S abiding nightmare, before he won the Open Championship in July, was that his tombstone would read: "He couldn't win the big ones."

Now that horror has been vanquished by the emphatic manner of his victory at Royal Lytham St Annes, Lehman no longer dreams bad dreams. "That win told me I'm a good player," he says. "Now I find myself concentrating on how good I can get, not how bad I can be. I've always lacked confidence and it has taken me a while to get comfortable with each new level I have achieved."

Sport in brief

Tour leader Zülle runs into trouble

ALEX ZULLE, the Tour of Spain leader, and his ONCE teammates have been hit by a stomach upset that threatens to leave the event wide open with four days left to race. Despite their problems Zülle and his second-placed team-mate Laurent Jalabert held on to their positions in the overall classification after yesterday's 18th stage, from Cerier to Zaragoza, which was won by the Russian Dmitry Konyshov. Zülle leads Jalabert by 1min 10sec, with the third-placed Laurent Dufaux more than four minutes further back.

ONCE team officials have acknowledged the existence of a problem but said they had neither analysed it nor found its cause. Other teams are preparing to challenge ONCE's grip over the overall standings in today's and tomorrow's final mountain stages. "We'll test Zülle early in Thursday's stage," said Miguel Moreno, manager of Dufaux's Lotus team.



Lehman's abiding nightmare, before he won the Open Championship in July, was that his tombstone would read: "He couldn't win the big ones."

He and his wife were once down to their last \$4,000 but gambled the lot on going to South Africa, where Lehman finished third in that country's Open and won \$26,000. But he believes the breakthrough on the US Tour came in the spring of 1994, at the Augusta National Golf Club where he led the US Masters going into the final round. "I'd never led a tournament on the Tour before, let alone a major, and all I could think before the start was 'Am I going to get sick all over myself?'"

Warne to miss India tour

SHANE WARNE has been forced out of Australia's tour to India, while the captain Mark Taylor confirmed that he will lead the side. The leg-spinner's recovery has been slower than expected after surgery on a finger on his bowling hand.

Warne has been replaced by South Australia's Peter McIntyre in the 14-man squad, which will play one Test against India as well as a one-day series on the six-week tour. The Australians fly out next Tuesday. Warne was ruled out after bowling in three one-day practice matches with the Victoria team in Darwin this week. "I'm disappointed," he said. "At this stage I'm not confident with the way it's going; it's not 100 per cent."

India's manager Sandeep Patil has been sacked and replaced by the former Test all-rounder Madan Lal. Patil took over after India's semi-final defeat by Sri Lanka in this year's World Cup but India lost the summer's three-match Test series 1-0 against England and fared modestly in three one-day tournaments in Singapore, Sharjah and Toronto.

Snooker

O'Sullivan's lighter touch masters Morgan

Clive Everton in Motherwell

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN rose early, ran five miles, practised after a muesli breakfast and yesterday afternoon beat the Welsh No. 1 Darren Morgan 5-3 to reach the quarter-finals of the Regal Scottish Masters at the Civil Centre here.

He led throughout and completed victory with a break of 104, the 102nd century of his professional career.

Having sweated out more than three hours in the gym during the summer, the 26-year-old O'Sullivan is not the troubled young man of a year ago. Then, although he had managed to adjust to his father serving a life sentence, the imprisonment of his mother for VAT offences was more than he could take.

He suffered five first-round defeats and it was only after his mother's release in February that he started again to address his game with proper intent. "The way I played last season really hurt me," he says. "At times there was no effort." In late season he struck up a valuable relationship with Del Hill, who has structured O'Sullivan's practice and focused his preparation.

It was to Hill's defence that O'Sullivan was leaping when he assaulted an assistant press officer at the last world championship. The official had told Hill to leave the press room because he did not conform to the dress code for visitors. O'Sullivan was fined £20,000 by the WPSA. The incident tarnished O'Sullivan's run to the semi-finals which enabled him to finish the season eighth in the rankings. He has already improved that to a provisional fourth by winning the Asian Classic earlier this month. "Being at the business end of tournaments is what I enjoy most. And that's why I'm trying to do things properly," O'Sullivan says. This afternoon he plays the world No. 3 Peter Ebdon.

Unhurt Lamy wrecks Minardi

PEDRO LAMY, the Portuguese Formula One driver, escaped unharmed when he crashed and wrecked his Minardi-Ford while testing at Estoril. Lamy lost control of his car and slammed into the rails at a bend. Further testing at the circuit was halted until the rails were repaired.

Law sailing towards semis

With only four races of the double round-robin to come in the World Championship of Match Racing at Dubrovnik, Britain's Chris Law is well on the way to a place in the knock-out semi-finals, writes Bob Fisher. He has scored eight wins and six defeats and is in fourth place of the 10 selected skippers. He opened the day by losing to the defending champion Ed Baird of the United States but came back strongly in the next race to defeat the Dutch Olympic bronze medalist Roy Heister. Law completed the day's racing by beating Bertrand Pace of France, the 1994 world champion.

SportsGuardian

ENGLAND'S FINEST AT LAST ON SONG FOR EUROPE

Champions League: Group C
Manchester United 2, Rapid Vienna 0

United shoot down Rapid

David Lacey

MANCHESTER United successfully shot the rapids at Old Trafford last night and for the moment things are going swimmingly for Alex Ferguson's team in the Champions League.

Rapid Vienna turned out to be Vapid Vienna, but an impressive first-half performance by Manchester United went some way towards re-establishing their European credentials on the eve of their 40th anniversary in Continental competitions.

While United needed an emphatic victory last night to purge their memories of finishing a poor second to Juventus in Turin a fortnight earlier, the reality of the situation was that any win would do. Champions League points were the whole point of the exercise.

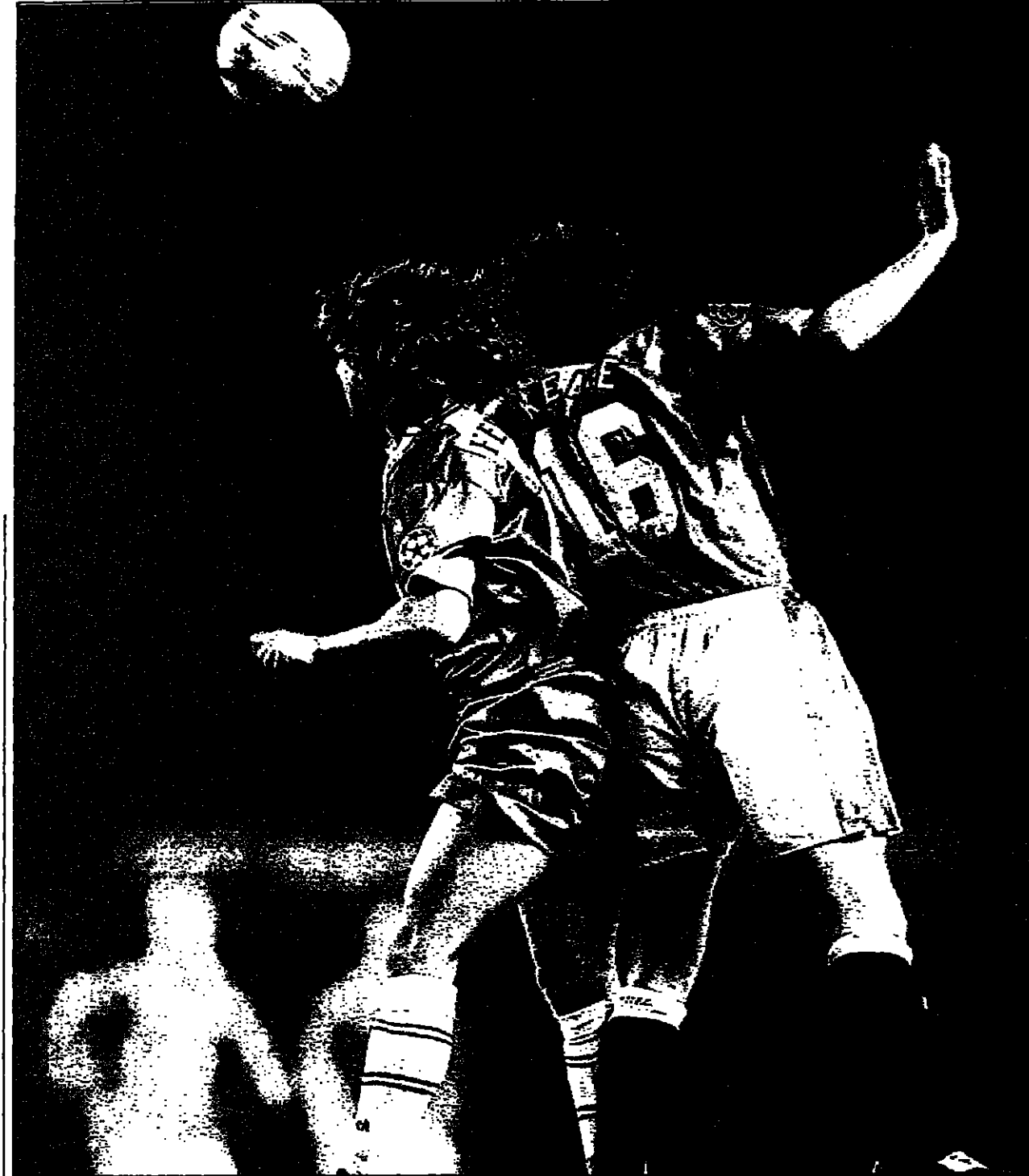
The threat presented by Rapid was not so much that they would end Manchester United's 40-year-old unbeaten home record in Europe but that they would join the lengthening list of foreign teams — seven in 13 matches — who had forced draws at Old Trafford in recent seasons. United had to beware of exposing themselves to the sort of sucker punch which had led to their defeat in the Stadio Delle Alpi.

Not that the Austrian champions had time to think of anything but self-defence as wave upon wave of Manchester United attacks swept over them from the outset. With Poborsky rather surprisingly retained from Turin, and Cruyff on the bench, United moved forward with pace and verve and quickly found gaps in the Viennese defence.

United had five near-misses in the opening 12 minutes. Solskjaer, set up first by Giggs and then by Cantona, sent one shot wide and another, weaker attempt went straight to Konsel, the Rapid goalkeeper.

Giggs's corners were soon posing problems. From one of them Johnsen had a header saved by Konsel and from another, Cantona glanced the ball past the goalkeeper only to see Prosenik clear it off the line.

In between times a mistake by Lesiak had allowed Solskjaer a free run at Konsel but the young Norwegian rather wasted the opportunity, allowing the Rapid goalkeeper to block his shot. Yet a goal for United, and Solskjaer, was not far away.



It takes two to tangle... Roy Keane gets up to challenge Rapid's Andreas Heraf last night

With May on for Johnsen, who had limped out of the match with a damaged ankle shortly before the first goal, United needed to keep their wits about them. They had, after all, lost European leads at Old Trafford before now.

Last night, however, the rapid disintegration of the Austrian defence did not suggest that this was going to be another of those occasions. In the 26th minute an astute piece of anticipation by Beckham increased United's lead.

Spotting a slack piece of passing by Stöger, Beckham raced in to gain possession and score at the second attempt. Konsel having blocked his first shot. Old Trafford roared its gratitude. This was more like a European night.

With Cantona drifting into space at will, Beckham now an even stronger influence than Keane, and Rapid still bewildered by sharp changes of pace and position, complacency was United's only real enemy.

They should have scored a third goal early in the second half, when Cantona and Poborsky worked a reverse sis-

sors movement to send in Solskjaer, but he was starting to miss the target again and wafled the ball over the bar. Later he headed wide when it would have been easier to score.

By now United were less inclined to pursue goals with the ferocity of the first half. They reduced the tempo but still kept possession and were always likely to create chances at their leisure.

For Rapid the evening had become a damage-limitation exercise. Wagner, their lone striker, eventually gave way to Stumpf. Mozart would have been a better bet.

Manchester United: Schmeichel, G. Neville, S. Johnson, W. Breen, P. Falshaw, T. Irwin, P. Roberts, R. Keane, T. Beckham, R. Keane, G. Gigg, C. Cantona, S. Solskjaer (C), Cole, S. H.

Rapid Vienna: Konsel, Zingler, Lesiak, Ivanov, Schibler, Prosenik, Heraf, R. Ruzsicky, K. Kuchauer, S. Sopper, S. Stumpf, S. Wagner, E. Barisic, G.

Referee: R. Harrel (France).

A ruthless and inhuman end to sunlit days



Frank Keating

ON NO other morning of the year is one's post-breakfast reverie, doodling in the day's starting-stalls, more ruminatively drawn out than when the first-class averages are published. They pull down the curtain on the sunlit days. They are a starkly ruthless, inhuman, set of figures. They tell, I suppose, of a general truth: but they are embellished with no tall tales, no mitigation, no missed catches, no bum decisions, no unlucky run-outs, no bad light, no bold near-sixers which just drop short, no stonewalling defiance. Just the stats, and nothing but the stats.

There were two summer tours and it is nicely courteous that Englishmen allowed an Indian shining with promise to top the batting and a Pakistani ditto the bowling. The young man who sounds like a Boy Scout campfire lyric, S. Ganguly, led with the willow — just 14 innings, average 58, three 100s, four 50s — and even our mighty, ancient Gooch (av. 67, eight 100s, six 50s) had to doff his hairpiece.

Pakistan's other Mushatq, Saqlain, headed the list of those who bowled more than 100 overs. In the top ten such bowlers only Mark Ealham (sixth), Phil Tufnell (ninth) and Darren Gough (tenth) were native sons of the soil and toil. Tufnell bowled by far the most maidens (273), and Courtney Walsh, as a bat, logged the most not-outs. In 24 innings, Andy Afford managed 34 runs. In his career, in 166 innings he is still quite a few short of 400.

With the Olympics rowdily deafening my own summer, and what with the rains as well there was little time personally to chew a long grass, sip some cider and cock an lazy ear at the clunk of bat on ball. In Atlanta some determined Brits, boffins with the radio, picked up Test Match Special's ball-by-ball coverage, which kept us sane.

It needed to. The hysterical one-nation jingoism of the American broadcasters got all our goats. It couldn't happen at home, we thought — but then came last week's Soheim Cup on Radio 5, and a lamentably nationalistic *tour de force*. By Sunday's final day, surely half the country's lis-

teners were rooting for the American women.

At one stage Tony Adamson excitedly apologised: "When I talk of the European girls, I really must stop saying 'us' and 'we', but I just can't help it." Next bulletin there was yet another spasmic ejaculation of "us" and "we". It is the same at the Ryder Cup. Are they reporters or simply infuriatingly frenzied cheerleaders? Or is it policy?

The BBC's two cricket teams do not countenance such flag-waving bluster and chauvinist bombast. And both honour the foe.

Was it just the relief of hearing them in Atlanta a few times, cracking through the static from Lord's and Trent Bridge, or has radio's Test Match Special triumphantly regrouped this summer and rediscovered its compelling appeal? (Except, that is, for those Radio 4 devotees who must return from long-wave to the non-cricket programmes on FM, which in some parts of the country is effectively impossible.)

THERE is a rumour that some bear Trevor Bailey and Fred Trueman as archaic caricatures. Nonsense, never let them go, they are the link with the past and the programme's pomp. To hear FST's growing manning of despair at today's youth takes decades off anybody's age.

One day this summer Trueman grumped: "There just aren't any real stars any more, not like in my day..." When Frindall or somebody quietly butted in to point out the career bowling figures and strike-rates of, respectively, Waqar, Wasim and Mushatq, Fred just grunted in defiant disbelief.

In fairness TMS had to readjust, almost revert itself, after the death nearly two years ago of its fulcrum Brian Johnston. With Christopher Martin-Jenkins superb as the reporter and Jonathan Agnew as the enthusiast, has not Henry Blofeld with his singular manner quite resplendently assumed some of the unabashed character, colours and textures of Johnston? You can almost hear the bow-tie and the flamboyant waistcoat, as much as you can see the "rather good-looking double-decker" easing down the Harleyford Road or the "rather thoughtful pigeon gliding past the box". And Blowers knows his stuff.

Peter Baxter's last county report from a bleak Oval on Sunday said: "It is now so dark here that even Blofeld could not spot an aeroplane." The End. Now, for seven-and-a-half long months, back to the studio.

BECK'S

EURO STAR OF THE YEAR

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

Guardian Crossword No 20,768
Set by Rufus

Across

- 9 What a cash register does is to stop fiddling (4,5)
- 10 Backwaters vessel (5)
- 11 Listener heads home in determined mood (7)
- 12 Horse-plate (7)
- 13 Note edge of radar screen echo (4)
- 14 Suit — policemen? (3,3,4)
- 16 A form of gravel found in S. Portugal (7)
- 17 Main line terminal? (7)
- 19 Religious rite comes to nothing in California (10)
- 22 House in the Home Counties by the motorway (4)
- 24 Something to keep Auntie in chagrin (7)
- 25 Like hell cats in a mêlée (7)
- 26 Turnover in coats (5)
- 27 Risks of heat in terminals (9)

Down

- 1 People pop inside where they see this sign (5,5,5)
- 2 Frightening the French into preparation for war (8)
- 3 The remains of a sporting trophy (5)
- 4 Dreadful family heard in abusive outburst (8)
- 5 To draw out English capital is OK in law (6)
- 6 Property conveyance? (6,3)
- 7 Kipling hero who led a wild life as a youngster (6)
- 8 No straightforward sort of flight (6,9)
- 15 Support fuss about sick animal (9)
- 17 Annul, even in court? (3,5)
- 18 It would be a bloomer to ring Hero's boyfriend (8)

OnLine
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Friday September 26 1996

55 dead as West tries to halt mayhem

Birt 'cave'

Inside

AEWGP

مكتبة الامم المتحدة